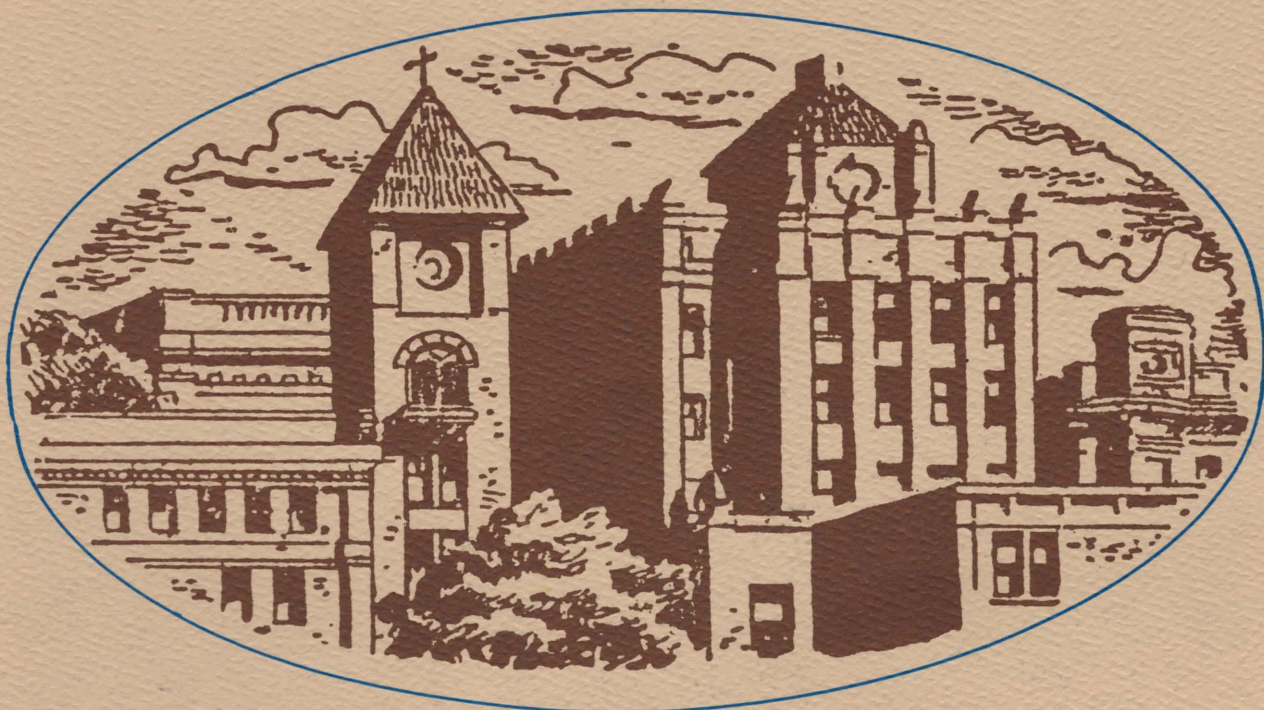


The Walla Walla Story:

Washington Centennial Edition

An Illustrated Description of the History and Resources of
The Valley They Liked So Well They Named It Twice!



A 1988 Edition of the 1953 Book—Compiled and Written by

VANCE ORCHARD

with CHESTER C. MAXEY . . . BILL GULICK . . . HARRY DRAKE
. . . LAWRENCE DODD . . . and other contributors

WALLA WALLA STORY'S EDITOR

Vance Orchard was felt a natural selection by the Walla Walla County Centennial Committee to edit and to write the contents of this book, an updated version of the 1953 book, *The Walla Walla Story*. He not only had contributed to the first edition, his main task as a Union-Bulletin reporter then and for the 32 years he was to be a U-B staffer was to deal with the history of this area.

Orchard served as the newspaper's regional or, "Roving Reporter" from 1951 to 1971. As he "wound down" to retirement in December, 1983, he was writing a weekly history feature, a community news column entitled, *Blue Mountain Ramblings*, a weekly feature on senior citizens, a weekly outdoors column and general news stories.

Since retirement, Orchard has continued as a regular contributor to the Union-Bulletin, writing the senior citizen/history feature plus the "Ramblings" column. Both appear in Sunday editions of the U-B.

Prior to moving to Walla Walla, Orchard served as the managing editor of the Auburn Globe-News and as editor of the Burien City Press and Midway Mercury.

Orchard is a member of the Walla Walla Valley Pioneer and Historical Society, the Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and the Elks. He is the author of several publications, including two books containing stories and photographs which appeared in the U-B during his 20-year stretch as "Roving Reporter" for SE Washington and NE Oregon. These are *Just Rambling Around Blue Mountain Country* (1981) and *Life on the Dry Side* (1984). Besides these, other publications have included *Waitsburg: One of a Kind* (1976), *Centennial Celebration: St. Patrick's Church — 1881-1981* and *Fort Walla Walla Museum*, the story of the people and the building of the museum complex at Fort Walla Walla Park.

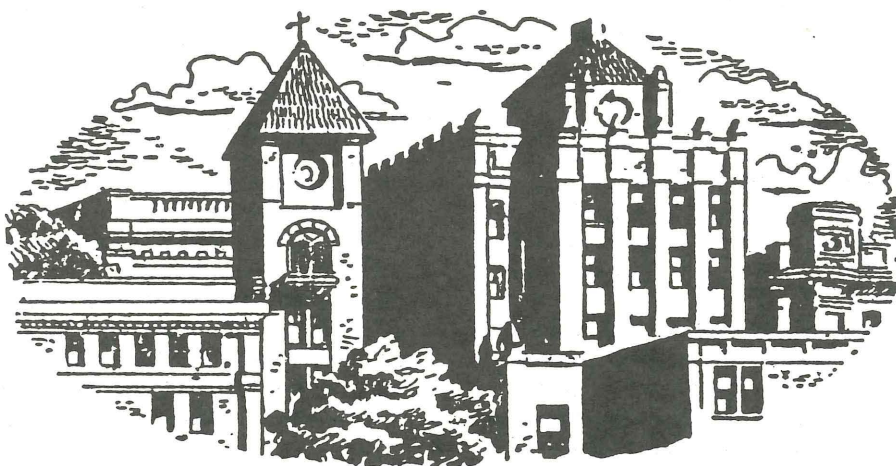
— Walla Walla County Centennial Committee

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Vance Orchard, Editor
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Centennial Committee

Including Selected Material
from Contributors



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"THE WALLA WALLA STORY" . . . 35 YEARS LATER

From the preface of the book of the same name 35 years ago, we read the words giving reason for its printing:

"We believe that both the resident and the visitor will find *The Walla Walla Story* a good sample of life as it was and is in this pleasant metropolitan center of the Blue Mountains region . . ."

This indeed proved true of the book put together in 1953, done so in the hopes of answering the need often expressed, "for a book about Walla Walla which would be reasonably comprehensive in content and subject." Its popularity seemed highest response.

Thus, it was deemed important by the Walla Walla County Centennial Committee that the same reasons prevailed to republish (in an updated version, of course) the book which had replied to needs of both resident and visitor. The book had been out of print for several years. It was for these reasons the book's republishing was the top project of the county organization which is striving to provide local efforts in support of the 1989 Washington State Centennial.

Preparing this revised edition in 1988 was to realize a variety of major changes had come to the "pleasant metropolitan center" of the 1953 book. This past 35 years has truly been an exciting one-third of a century for Walla Walla . . . a span of time rivaling the city's first 35 years, which saw a scant collection of tents and shacks become the biggest city of Washington by 1880. The centerfold of today's book showing a birds-eye view of Walla Walla in 1889 . . . the year of Washington Statehood, of course . . . best illustrates this first 35-year growth of the city.

The span from 1953 to 1988 saw changes in many ways . . . changes in city government, changes in our schools, changes in agriculture . . . while it continues to be the backbone of the county's economy . . . and even startling changes in the physical makeup of our city. The sprawling Eastgate District is the most noteworthy example of this growth in 35 years. In most cases, these changes have been a widening, an enlarging, even a betterment, most will agree.

While preparing this book and the material which has gone into it, one of the quickest changes which leaped at me was those in our schools. Since 1953 there have been built a community college, two high schools, a junior high school and several elementary schools . . . truly tremendous growth! But, at Walla Walla College and Whitman College, millions of dollars have been spent on vastly increased educational facilities at each.

Several industries have come to Walla Walla County in the past 35 years, with the huge Boise Cascade Corp. plant on the west shore the biggest. One of the biggest, in terms of employee

numbers, is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, only five years old when the 1953 book was published. During its time here its personnel have built a host of dams on the nearby Columbia and Snake rivers. The corps story in Walla Walla is detailed in the 1988 edition.

Vastly improved medical facilities for the region have come in 35 years with construction of two new hospitals and several clinics.

Changes in the agricultural story have been of note as well. So different is the harvesting of green peas that much of what was true 35 years ago is no longer practiced in the harvesting or processing. It remains a prominent crop, however, as does asparagus, alfalfa seed and hay, wheat, the famed "Walla Walla Sweet Onion," apples (augmented by hundreds of acres in recent years) and some newcomers like grapes, dry beans and others.

All of this . . . and more . . . has been added to the history of this region which was told so well in 1953 by the late Chester C. Maxey, professor of history at Whitman College, president of the college and first mayor of Walla Walla under the council-manager former of government. His story about Walla Walla's background is again presented, as he wrote it for the 1953 book.

Also retained very nearly intact has been the reasons given in 1953 by nationally-recognized author, Bill Gulick, for his having selected Walla Walla as his "home town." The only change needed in his remarks concerned the plurality of dams built here since his arrival in 1949, instead of the single built by 1953. It is assumed Gulick meant more than this when he responded to our request for his article by saying: "I wouldn't change a thing."

Looking back to the time of that 1953 book, I recall it was Al McVay, its editor, who was the "guiding hand" behind it all, with U-B reporters and editors joining in to contribute the bulk of the material. My own included a series of suggested tours of the area plus a few short items which have been placed in this version. Changes have come to the areas of the tours, so these have been presented in a condensed version. As McVay commented in 1953, this work was largely "a labor of love." So, it has been for many who have provided articles for this edition and credit has been given for this material. Heartfelt thanks of the County Centennial Committee goes to all who have provided this vital assistance to this project!

—Vance Orchard, Editor

Thanks to Aurel Kelly and Marilyn Alexander, daughters of the late Chester C. Maxey, for their permission to reprint their father's historical sketch of the Walla Walla Valley.

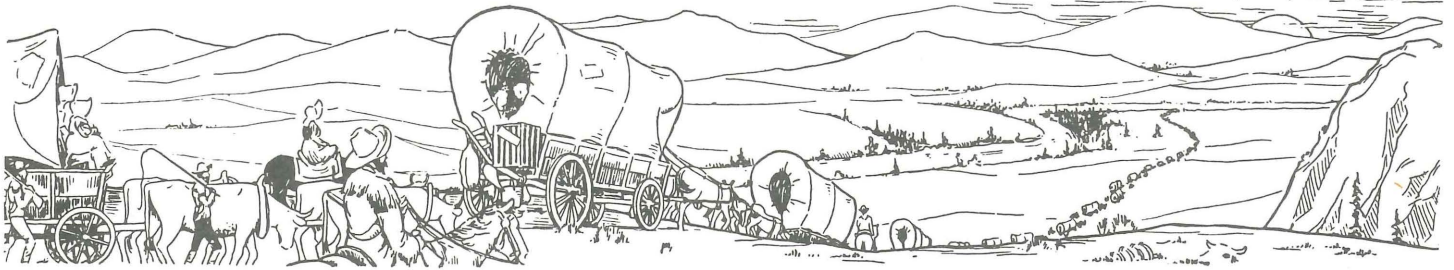
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"THE HISTORICAL WALLA WALLA VALLEY"



"Cradle of Northwest History"

By DR. CHESTER C. MAXEY

"First, the red man, whose history no one knows; then in rapid succession, the explorer, the trapper, the fur trader, the missionary, the emigrant, the soldier, the gold miner, the merchant, the cattle raiser — vanguards of the coming army of occupation. Following these, a lusty and acquisitive civilization which in half a generation had produced another typical American community; not a 'Zenith' nor yet a 'Gopher Prairie,' but evincing qualities of both. Such, in brief resume, is the story of early Walla Walla . . . vital, colorful, tragic, noble; also in some aspects, vapid, drab, comic, mean . . . a segment of life as it will never be lived again on this continent or any other." — Chester C. Maxey.

(The following is presented as written for the 1953 edition by the late Dr. Chester C. Maxey, graduate of Whitman College, for many years professor of history there, a former president of the college, member of the Walla Walla city council and first mayor under the council-manager form of government. In a statement of sources for his article, Dr. Maxey listed the following: "In the preparation of this brief history the writer has been greatly aided by the work of Miss Jessie Applegate who collated the source material for his use. The sources principally relied upon are: W. D. Lyman, Old Walla Walla County, Vols. I and II (1918); F. T. Gilbert, Historical Sketches (1882); H. H. Bancroft, History of the Pacific States, Vol. XXVI (1890); J. Hawthorne, History of Washington, Vols. I and II (1893); W. H. Gray, History of Oregon (1870); C. A. Snowden, History of Washington, Vols. I, II, III (1909); G. W. Fuller, The Inland Empire, Vols. I, II, III (1928).")

THE EXPLORERS

It was a place where men had to come.
Nature saw to that.

Here, lying east and south of that marvelous system of waterways formed by the majestic Columbia and the turbid, impetuous Snake, was a land of many waters, winding among rolling hills and smiling valleys; a land buttressed by noble mountains and graced by countless springs and streams; a land easy to traverse, accessible by every mode of transport; a fruitful land in every way adapted to the use and habitation of man.

Long before white men ventured into the far Northwest, long before white men had even glimpsed the shores of trans-Atlantic continents, the Red Indian had found the region "where the

four creeks meet" . . . the Walla Walla, the Touchet, Mill Creek and Dry Creek . . . an altogether lovely and desirable place of abode.

This confluence of streams marked the heart of the Walla Walla country and gave it its "adopted" Indian name, "the place of many waters." Here roamed and lodged, as suited season and circumstance, Indians of diverse tribes . . . Cayuses, Nez Perces, Umatillas, Yakimas, Palouses, Wascos, Klickitats and many others.

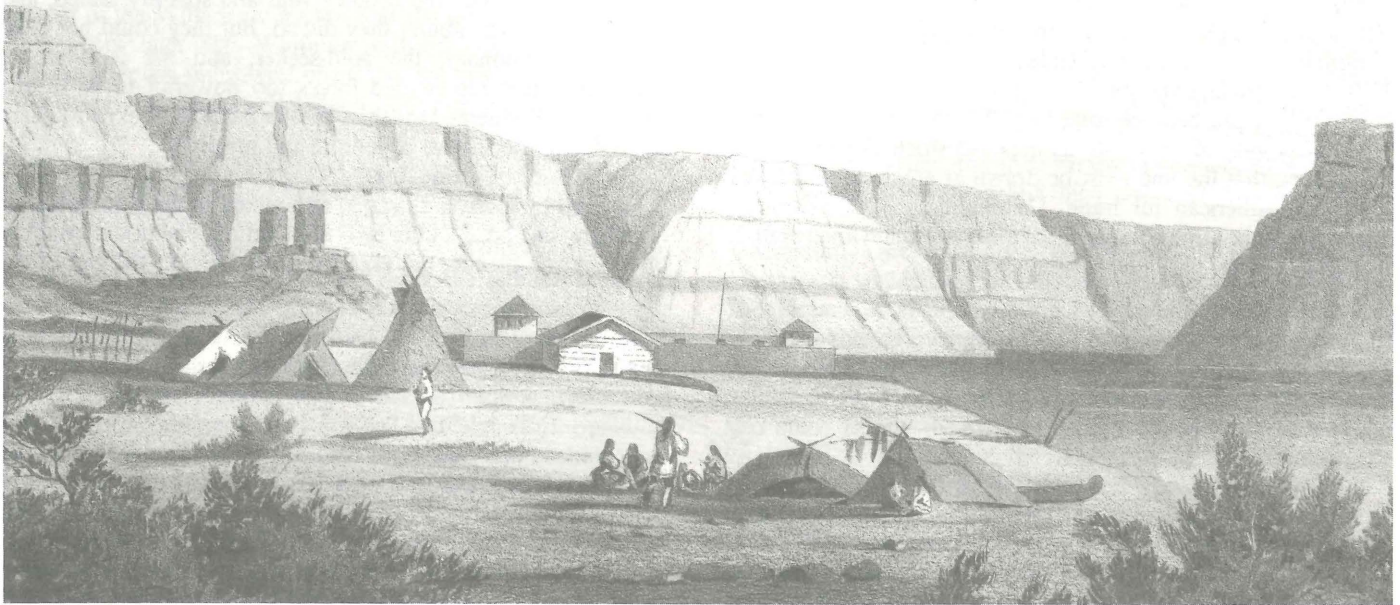
Here they met in war, here they came to smoke the pipe of peace; here was the rendezvous for the hunt, here the place of return; here they jousted, feasted, worshipped, buried their dead; here they carried on their primitive arts and crafts and gathered such fruits of the soil as nature might provide. And here, because it was a pulsing center of aboriginal life, came the explorer, the trapper, and the missionary . . . first of the palefaces to penetrate the Blue Mountain country.

The first white man to set foot in the Walla Walla Valley is not known . . . some roving voyageur it may have been, or some nameless trapper or trader. Many legends there are; but no established facts.

Recorded history of white penetration in this region dates from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Some time in October, 1805, on their westward trek, Lewis and Clark camped opposite the sites of the present cities of Lewiston and Clarkston and skirted the northern and western bounds of the Walla Walla country as they proceeded down the Snake and Columbia to the sea. On the return trip in 1806 the Lewis and Clark party made its way to the mouth of the Walla Walla River by boat and thence overland to the junction of the Clearwater and Snake. On the last day of April, 1806, they turned their horses northeast and followed the Nez Perce Trail to the Touchet, which they followed to the present location of Bolles Junction (between Prescott and Waitsburg - Eds.). The next stage took them through the vicinity of Waitsburg and Dayton, whence they passed through the Pomeroy region back to the Snake.

Made conscious of the potentialities of the Oregon country by the reports of Lewis and Clark, American commercial interests began to seek a foothold in the territory between the Rockies and the Pacific Ocean.

The northwest coastline had long been a lure to fur hunters, and the Hudson's Bay Company and its Canadian rival, the Northwestern Fur Company, had established posts on the lower Columbia some years before the Lewis and Clark adventure.



FIRST FORT WALLA WALLA . . . built in 1818 as Ft. Nez Perce, it was changed to Ft. Walla Walla by the Hudson's Bay Company. This is the first of three trading posts located at the mouth of the Walla Walla River on the Columbia. (Sketch by Stanley)

An American company headed by that canny old profiteer, John Jacob Astor, now determined to challenge British pretensions to monopoly of the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest. In 1810, Astor dispatched two expeditions to the Oregon country, one by land and the other by sea. The latter reached its destination at the mouth of the Columbia and founded the trading post of Astoria on April 12, 1811. The land division was much longer reaching the goal, but after desperate hardships, unforgettably described in Washington Irving's "Astoria," they crossed the mountains, floated down the Columbia, and finally arrived at Astoria on January 18, 1812.

Thereupon followed a period of bitter and dramatic rivalry between the three great fur companies. Misfortune dogged the course of the Astor company and it finally sold its interests to the Northwest company, which in turn was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. For the next 25 years this commercial organization held feudal sway over all of Oregon.

All of which has little to do with the story of Walla Walla save that during the struggle between the three big trading companies the first civilized community was planted in the Walla Walla region. This was the founding of Fort Walla Walla (first called Fort Nez Perce) by Donald McKenzie in 1818. Capable and ambitious, McKenzie had been a member of the Northwestern company for 10 years, then had joined up with Astor, and had been influential in the sale of the Astor interests to the Northwest Fur Company with which he thereupon resumed his connection. Perceiving the strategic importance of a post at the junction of the Columbia and Walla Walla rivers, he sought the approval of his associates for the establishment of such an enterprise, but met with considerable opposition.

Ultimately, however, the necessary orders for men and equipment were secured from headquarters, and in July, 1818, McKenzie, with 95 men, set to work to construct a fort at a point half a mile above the mouth of the Walla Walla. The

structure consisted of a palisade of heavy timbers 25 feet high. At the top were loopholes and slip doors. The bastions and water tanks of 200-gallon capacity afforded further protection against Indian attacks and the danger of fire. The enclosure was 100 feet square. Within were houses built of drift logs and one of stone. Adobe buildings were subsequently constructed, and some of these remained in partial preservation until swept away by the great flood of 1894.

From Fort Walla Walla, McKenzie and his successors carried on an extensive and profitable trade throughout the Snake and Blue Mountains regions. Commerce and adventure went hand in hand in the fur business in those days and Fort Walla Walla did not lack for thrilling exploits. But it was as a center of civilization in wilds almost unbroken from Fort Vancouver to the crest of the Rocky Mountains and beyond that the little garrison opposite the "colonnade rocks" made its chief contribution to history. Gardens were started, cattle brought to feed on the meadow lands of the Walla Walla, and industries supplementary to agriculture carried on. As need increased, additional pasture and garden tracts were developed, one of the most extensive being about 15 miles southwest of the present city of Walla Walla.

By the time the missionaries and emigrants began to filter into the country in the 1830s and 1840s the lower Walla Walla bore a homelike and civilized appearance . . . an oasis in vast desert of barbarism and savagery. Small wonder so many decided that here was the place to settle, here the point from which to launch the various enterprises that lay close to their hearts.

We cannot leave the fur-trade era without brief mention of three stalwart Americans . . . Jedediah Smith, Nathaniel Wyeth and B. I. E. Bonneville . . . who gamely but vainly tried to break the Hudson's Bay monopoly and establish independent fur enterprises in the Pacific Northwest.

Jedediah Smith, who roamed over the whole western country

between 1826 and 1831, was perhaps the greatest pathfinder and trailmaker of the time.

Wyeth headed a party which touched at Fort Walla Walla in 1832. Pierre Pambrun, the Hudson's Bay Company agent, received the nearly famished Americans with ostentatious hospitality, but firmly refused to provide supplies for fur-trading expeditions. Wyeth finally sold out to the Hudson's Bay Company, even yielding his cherished Fort Hall, which became one of that company's most advantageous posts.

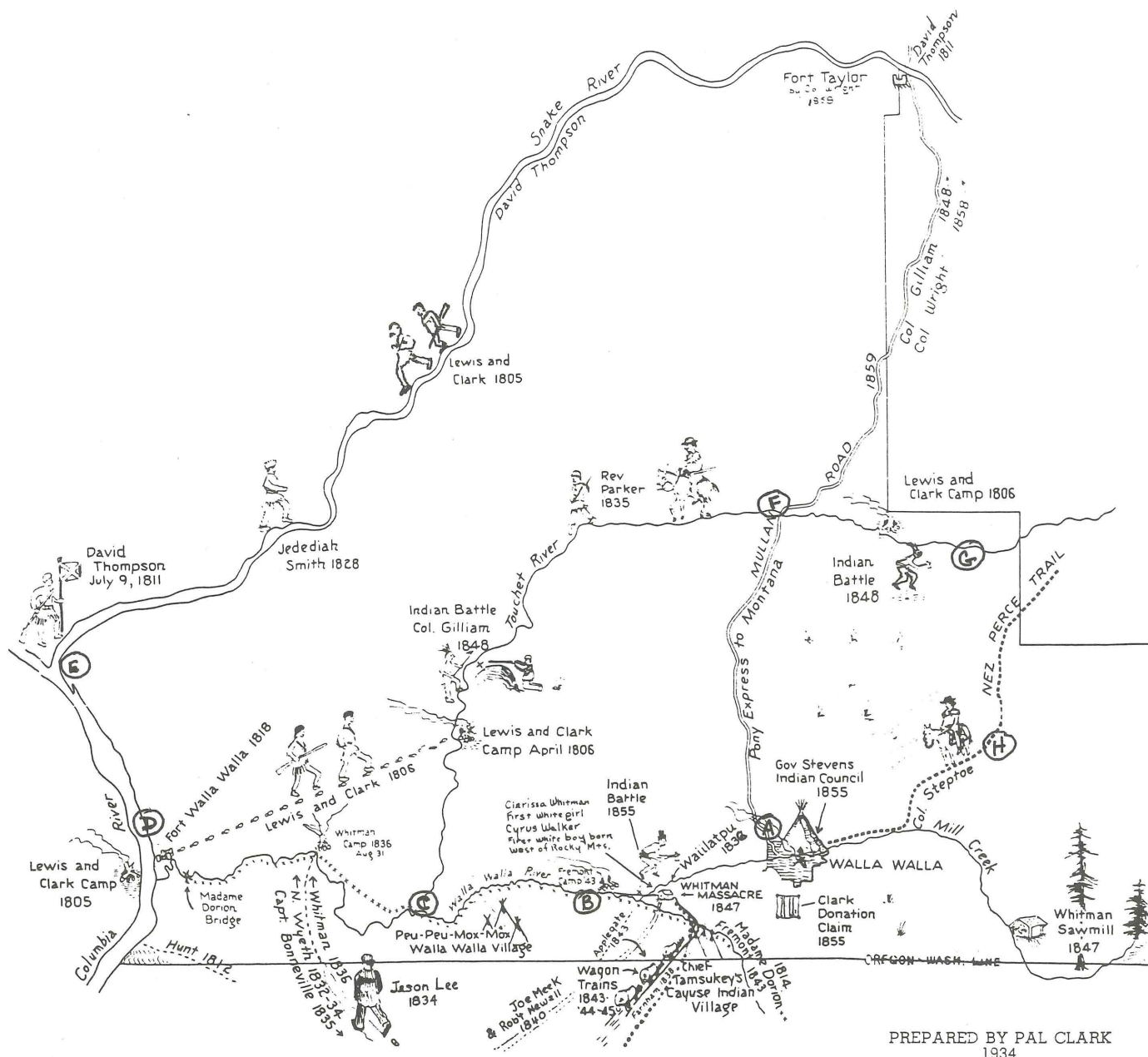
Bonneville's expeditions extended over the years 1832-35. At Fort Walla Walla, Pambrun received him with the same gracious courtesy that had been bestowed on Wyeth, but informed him, when he sought to replenish his depleted stock of supplies and equipment, that the line must be drawn at anything that would foster the American fur trade. Descending the Columbia, he encountered the same iron barrier of monopoly, and finally retired from the contest.

THE WHITMAN ERA

Not willingly did the Hudson's Bay Company aid in the settlement of the Pacific Northwest or foster the spread of civilization. With the passing of the wilderness and the civilization of the Indian, their monopoly was doomed, and with it would go a large portion of their most profitable business. It was to their interest to keep the country wild and sparsely settled, and to the best of their ability they did so. But they could not cope with the missionary, the gold-seeker, and the land-hungry emigrant. These represented forces too powerful to be turned back. They represented the three master passions of expansionism . . . religion, speculative adventure and property.

The missionary came first.

Inspired by motives as varied and mixed as the manifestations of religion can be . . . utter self-immolation, emotional impulses of varied complexity, the urge for social service, the call of the



WALLA WALLA COUNTY . . . Bordered on the west by the Columbia River and the north by the Snake River, was the scene of numerous pioneer paths as captured in this 1934 sketch by Walla Walla historian, Pal Clark. Modern communities of the county are shown by letters: College Place (A), Lowden (B), Touchet (C), Wallula (D), Burbank (E), Prescott (F), Waitsburg (G), and Dixie (H).

benighted, the fascination of the unfamiliar, the exigencies of sectarian competition . . . a tidal movement of missionary endeavor swept in upon the Oregon country in the early 30s and continued unabated until the late 40s and early 50s of the last century.

In company with Wyeth in 1834 came the Methodist, Jason Lee, with a party that touched first at Vancouver, and finally located in the Willamette Valley near the present city of Salem. Two years later the Whitman mission was established at Waiilatpu, seven miles west of the present city of Walla Walla.

In 1834, Dr. Marcus Whitman, a young physician of New York, responded to the call of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and was assigned to work among the Indians of the Oregon region.

In 1835, Whitman, with Dr. Samuel Parker, made a reconnaissance to determine the advisability of founding a mission in this area. Upon reaching Green River the outlook appeared so promising that it was decided that Parker should continue westward while Whitman returned to the East to secure other workers and organize a party. In February, 1836, Dr. Whitman married Narcissa Prentiss, and in March, with his bride and a company consisting of the Reverend and Mrs. H. H. Spalding, William H. Gray, and two Indian boys who had accompanied him on his return from Green River, he again set forth across the continent.

The story of the first Whitman journey has been almost as completely romanticized as the renowned mid-winter ride of Whitman to the East in 1842. It was in truth no holiday excursion, and was a severe test of the courage, endurance and faith of all members of the company.

Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding were the first white women to make the journey overland to Oregon, and merely to say that they endured with equanimity and fortitude the inevitable privations and hardships of the wilderness is ample testimony of their character. They were not Amazons, but refined and gentle women who relished comfort and appreciated the alleviations of civilization. What they dared and endured evidenced not a strain of masculinity in their composition, but a tremendous faith in their mission and a deep devotion to their husbands. Whitman and Gray were essentially outdoor men whom physical hardships never daunted, and Spalding, though less so, had sufficient iron in his make-up to carry him through.

Six months the Whitman party were on the road, traveling mainly on horseback and subsisting much of the time on buffalo meat, fish and wild berries supplemented by milk from the several cows which they had brought along. As the party approached Fort Walla Walla, September 1, 1836, they were enchanted by the gardens and other appearances of civilization and spontaneously burst into a gallop in order to hurry the end of the long and wearisome journey. They were received at the fort with the utmost courtesy and consideration and enjoyed the hospitality of the post some days.

From Fort Walla Walla they proceeded to Vancouver to decide upon permanent locations. There it was decided that the Spaldings should establish a mission at Lapwai, on the Clearwater, in Nez Perce territory, and the Whitmans at Waiilatpu, "the place of the rye grass," in the Walla Walla Valley. With characteristic energy, Dr. Whitman at once set himself to the task and soon had a habitable abode for himself and his bride.

There, on March 14, 1837, was born Alice Clarissa Whitman, the first white child born west of the Rockies and north of California. Additional workers were promptly recruited for both missions, and both quickly became useful centers of evangelism, education, and industry. Gray went east for reinforcements in 1837 and returned with a bride and three additional missionaries,

one of whom was Cushing Eells.

The Whitman mission developed into a fairly pretentious establishment comprising a sawmill (up Mill Creek), a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, a school, and about 200 acres of cultivated land including an orchard, in addition to living quarters. The accommodations were rough and primitive, to be sure, but the touch of civilization and refinement was in growing evidence, and to emigrants stopping at the mission after the hardships and privations of the passage across two thousand miles of mountains and desert it seemed a veritable paradise . . . a promise of rich fulfillment of their dreams of wealth in the Oregon country. One visitor who stopped at Waiilatpu in 1839 spoke of the unusually fine garden, the great variety of vegetables and melons, wheat in the fields seven feet high and corn nine feet in the tassel.

Materially the enterprise prospered, and culturally and spiritually it wielded a great influence. But there were difficulties. The Indians at Waiilatpu were less tractable than at Lapwai, less amenable to evangelism and education, more resentful of the intrusion of the whites in their ancestral domains. Increasingly displayed was their hostility and irreconcilability. Dissensions also arose among the various groups of missionaries, and the Prudential Committee of the American Board, doubting the success of the Whitman mission, resolved in February, 1842, to discontinue it. This fired Dr. Whitman to action.

Dr. Whitman left the mission station on October 3, 1842, and pushed eastward across the Rocky Mountains, surmounting perils and hardships that the bravest of adventurers cared not to risk. He went to Boston and saved his mission and also went to New York and Washington for the purpose of enlisting aid and support. On the return West in 1843 he joined a large body of emigrants and assisted in piloting them across the mountains.

The dramatic midwinter transcontinental ride and Whitman's personal appearance in frontier costume in the major centers of population focused attention on Oregon as never before. Whitman stood out in the public mind as the symbol of American leadership in Oregon. He has come to be the best remembered pioneer of the Oregon Trail.

Dr. Whitman again took up his work at the missions in 1843, but thenceforth his labors were of more service to the hundreds of settlers annually pouring into the Pacific Northwest than to the aborigines who stubbornly refused to be reclaimed from heathendom and savagery. Waiilatpu became a regular stopping place for emigrant trains following the Oregon Trail, and they generally arrived short of provisions and often destitute of funds.

It was not Whitman's duty to conduct a relief station for impecunious emigrants, but that is virtually what he did. By unremitting industry and sacrificial frugality he managed to keep on hand a stock of supplies equal to all emergencies. The limited finances of the mission obliged him to exact payment when possible, but there is abundant testimony showing that no profiteering was practiced. Grumblers were no less common on the Oregon Trail than elsewhere, and there were occasional mutterings and complaints about the prices charged at the Whitman mission; but far more general was the grateful acknowledgment of those aided by the open-handed philanthropy of the Whitmans.

There were four years of this indefatigable and valuable service before the climactic tragedy of the massacre. All the while the natives were growing increasingly restive and suspicious. Settlers were rapidly occupying the Indian lands, and the Hudson's Bay people, who were always favored in the predilections of the tribesmen, made no secret of their antagonism to American emigration and settlement. The Whitman mission had never

enjoyed the confidence of the neighboring tribes to the fullest extent and circumstance conspired to destroy such loyalty as had been won.

Stirred by the murder of the son of Peu-Peu-mox-mox, Chief of the Walla Walla, the Indians were in a mood to respond to the most violent impulses when an epidemic of measles, a paleface pestilence unknown to the older Indians, swept the valley and claimed many victims among the native population. To the primitive mind this was clearly a result of the doctor's evil magic.

The more Dr. Whitman did to treat the sick, the more the conviction spread that he was killing them with some subtle poison. Long resenting the American settlers as intruders and usurpers, the Indians now came to fear them as malevolent sorcerers, and Dr. Whitman most of all. There could be no safety for the red man, it seemed apparent, until evil hexers were exterminated.

Though there are many versions of the massacre on Nov. 29, 1847, there is substantial agreement on certain particulars. Dr. Whitman, the principal object of Indian suspicions and antipathies, was the first person slain. While engaged with his medicine chest, two Indians well known at the mission approached him. One drew his attention in conversation and the other struck him down with a tomahawk. Then began the general butchery. Mrs. Whitman was shot through the chest and shortly died. She was the only woman killed. Twelve men in addition to Dr. and Mrs. Whitman were killed before the slaughter ended.

Fifty-one survivors, mostly women and children, were taken captive by the Indians and held until December 29th, when they were surrendered at Fort Walla Walla in exchange for 62 blankets, 63 cotton shirts, 37 pounds of tobacco, and a certain quantity of guns and ammunition. Some of the women had been compelled to marry among their captors, but the others, aside from the terror and hardships inevitable under the circumstances, were not seriously mistreated.

With this gruesome finale, the Whitman mission passed into history. The missionary era was nearing its close. Catholic teaching was carried on from the Hudson's Bay posts long before the coming of Lee and Whitman, but the establishment of the first regular Catholic mission in the Walla Walla country was delayed until the arrival of Bishop A. M. A. Blanchet at Fort Walla Walla on Sept. 4, 1847.

The Indian wars and other disturbance following the Whitman massacre made it difficult to continue operations from this point, and in 1850 the Catholic Diocese of Walla Walla was discontinued and its administration merged with other dioceses under the control of the archbishop at Oregon City terminated the formal mission stage of Catholicism in the Walla Walla area, although Father Brouillet remained into the period of settlement, and in conjunction with Father Junger, founded the Catholic church at Walla Walla.

The Cayuse War, coming on the heels of the Whitman tragedy, followed by the Indian wars of the late 50s, resulted in the closing of the interior country to settlement until 1859, and during this time missionary activities had to be largely suspended. By the time the country was again thrown open to settlement a new era had dawned.

THE INDIAN WARS

When the tidings of the Whitman massacre reached the Willamette Valley, the only settled area in the Oregon territory, steps were immediately taken to apprehend and punish the perpetrators. It was not simply a matter of visiting vengeance

or even justice on the guilty. Summary action was necessary to prevent a general Indian uprising and safeguard from molestation the emigrant trains now annually coming through from the East in great numbers.

A regiment of Oregon volunteers, under Colonel Gilliam, setting out in December, 1847, to effect the rescue of the captives, reached The Dalles on January 23, 1848. Here two of their number were decoyed and murdered by Indians, and on January 30, a general skirmish occurred. The hostiles withdrew and the troops pressed on into the Cayuse country. On February 28, at the crossing of the Deschutes, another fight occurred. The Indians were repulsed. Several minor encounters occurred along the way, but the soldiers moved on to Waiilatpu where they reburied the victims of the massacre in one large grave which they covered with a wagon box found on the grounds. This done, they established quarters and built an adobe stockade called Fort Waters in honor of their lieutenant colonel.

Shortly thereafter some 90 men were detailed to round up what cattle they could find and, if possible, determine the location of the hostile Indians. Friendly Indians guided them to the mouth of the Tucannon where there was an Indian camp on the present site of Starbuck. The savages found in this encampment protested that they were friendly and vowed that the hostile Cayuses had gone.

It was a ruse. The Whitman murderers were in that very band. Taking advantage of the credulity of the volunteers, the Indians broke camp and transported their squaws and papooses across the river where they would be out of firing range. Then, with the usual accompaniment of fiendish yelling and gesticulating, they attacked. The soldiers, taken by surprise and no match for the Indians in numbers or arms, elected to make a running fight of it. The Indians pursued them clear back to Waiilatpu, wounding several but not killing any of them.

Subsequent attempts to catch the murderers and punish the rampaging Cayuses proved unsuccessful, and the regiment was finally recalled to Oregon City. A company of 55 men, under the command of Captain William Martin, was left at Fort Waters to protect the surviving missionaries and settlers. Though occasional scares occurred, this garrison was never attacked. Conditions remained uncertain, however, and it was thought best to remove all American missionaries and settlers to the Willamette Valley.

Thus closed, none too gloriously, the campaign known as the Cayuse War. The Cayuses had not been annihilated or punished, but they had been dispersed and driven from their ancestral lands and were afraid to return. After two years, a little company of five of their chiefs, hoping apparently to make some sort of compromise with the enemy, presented themselves at Oregon City. Though protesting their innocence of any direct connection with the massacre at Waiilatpu, they were tried and hanged on June 3, 1850 . . . evidently on the theory of tribal responsibility. Their chieftains gone, the Cayuse soon disintegrated into scattered bands of fugitives which were ultimately absorbed by other tribes. The Cayuse language ceased to be spoken, and the name itself passed out of use save as an appellation for a mongrel or inferior species of horse.

Meanwhile the "Oregon question" had been settled and the United States was in undisputed possession of the territory south of the 49th parallel, and the irrepressible tide of settlers began to flow in.

In 1853, the Territory of Washington was created and Isaac I. Stevens appointed governor. The first territorial legislature carved this spacious and well-nigh empty domain into 16 counties, among which was the county of Walla Walla, embracing practically all of eastern Washington, most of the present state



**ISAAC STEVENS . . . first
governor of Washington Territory**
(Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman
College)



**PEU-PEU-MOX-MOX . . . head
chief of the Walla Walla**
(Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman
College)

of Idaho, and the western quarter of the present state of Montana. The county seat was located "on the land of Lloyd Brooke," in the vicinity of Waiilatpu. From among the residents of the district were appointed a board of county commissioners, a sheriff and a probate judge with the jurisdiction of justice of the peace, but this county regime was never fully inaugurated and is remembered simply as an interesting and significant historical landmark.

In March, 1855, gold was discovered at the junction of the Pend Oreille river and the Columbia. Foreseeing Indian troubles in consequence of the stampede of prospectors which immediately set in, Governor Stevens hastened to negotiate treaties with various Indian tribes likely to be disturbed by the inrush of whites, planning ultimately to establish a number of suitable Indian reservations.

Agreement with the tribes of the Walla Walla region was an indispensable part of this program, and in May, 1855, Stevens, with about 50 men, arrived in this Walla Walla Valley prepared to treat with the forgathered Nez Perces, Yakimas, Umatillas, Walla Wallas, and other smaller tribes. The campsite is said to have been on Mill Creek in the vicinity of the present Grove Street in Walla Walla.

The Nez Perces, under their chieftain, Halhaltlossot, known to the whites as The Lawyer, were amenable to negotiations; but the Walla Wallans, under Peu-peu-mox-mox, and the Yakimas under Kahmiakin were recalcitrant, believing that the only sure way to preserve Indian rights was to exterminate the whites. Accordingly, the chroniclers tell us, they brewed a plot to wipe out Governor Stevens and his band and then descend upon the settlements at The Dalles and the Willamette Valley. This would be the signal for their allies west of the mountains to mop up the Puget Sound region.

It was a grandiose design, if it went so far as that; but it failed to come off. Credit for wrecking the conspiracy is given to Chief Lawyer, who it is said, went to Governor Stevens' camp at night and revealed the plot, and then moved his own camp to a location adjoining the whites, thus serving notice on the confederates that in case of attack the Nez Perces would stand with the Americans.

Negotiations proceeded despite the belated opposition of the Nez Perce chieftain, Looking Glass, who had been away on a raid against the Blackfeet and, arriving in the midst of the conference with a any number of newly taken scalps dangling from his belt, ordered his people home. Stevens, with the aid

of Chief Lawyer, rallied the Indians to conference again, and finally, in spite of the opposition of Looking Glass, secured the agreement of the main body of the Indians to three reservation, which were substantially the same as the Yakima, Nez Perce and Umatilla reservations of the present day.

No sooner had the conference adjourned and the governor gone his way than the Walla Wallas and Yakimas tore the treaties to shreds and prepared for war. The news reached Stevens late in October at his camp 35 miles up the Missouri from Fort Benton. He was warned that a thousand warriors were camped in the Walla Walla Valley to prevent his return to Olympia and was advised to go East by the Missouri River and return to his capital via Panama. He chose rather to attempt the northern route through the Spokane country and was successful in reaching Olympia safely, though suffering much from cold and hunger.

Governor Curry of Oregon meanwhile had dispatched two divisions of volunteers to the Walla Walla Valley. Between December 7th and 10th, 1855, these troops fought a series of engagements with the Indians, culminating at Frenchtown, ten miles west of the present city of Walla Walla. Prior to the skirmishes just mentioned, Peu-peu-mox-mox of the Walla Wallas, under a flag of truce, came to the camp of the volunteers for a pow-wow. Concluding that this was merely a ruse to gain time, the volunteers decided to hold him as a hostage. The old chief agreed and promised the next day to go with the troops to his people and have them deliver up their arms and stolen property. One of the chief's retinue was sent to communicate these arrangements to the Indians.

Evidently Peu-peu-mox-mox's instructions were to prepare for war, not peace, for when the troops arrived next day at the Indian village they found it deserted and the warriors gathered on a nearby hill. Not sure of the intentions of the Indians, the troops decided to move to a spot near Waiilatpu and make camp for the winter. On the march they were fired upon and gave chase, with casualties on both sides. The march to Waiilatpu occupied four days, and each day the Indians attacked and were routed. Incidental to the fighting was the killing of Peu-peu-mox-mox. It is asserted by some that he was deliberately murdered, while others say he was shot trying to escape from his guard.

There is also a story that his ears were cut off and preserved in a jar of whiskey, but when this zestful embalming fluid disappeared, were sent to Salem and nailed on the state house. "Who drank the whiskey off Peu-peu-mox-mox's ears?" was one of the delectable witticisms bandied about among the troops in that winter of 1855.

During these skirmishes in the Walla Walla Valley, Governor Stevens was more than occupied in Western Washington. Hostile uprisings had nearly destroyed the little settlement at Seattle, and numbers of settlers had lost their lives or had their homes destroyed and their stock driven off. Still he would not neglect the situation east of the Cascades. It was vital to hold the allegiance of the Nez Perces and compose the bellicose tribesmen now smarting under the sting of defeat.

So in 1856, a second council of the tribes was arranged at Walla Walla. Shortly after Stevens' arrival, Col. E. J. Steptoe and a detachment of United States (army) regulars established themselves in a stockade on Mill Creek somewhere between the points where that stream is now intersected by First Avenue and Colville Street. Under orders from his superior, General Wool, Steptoe was unable to give Stevens the support he expected and the council broke up in disagreement.

A short distance south of the present city of Walla Walla as the governor and his party were departing for the west side,

they were attacked by the Indians. Steptoe went to their aid and enabled Stevens to return to Olympia where he launched a bitter attack upon General Wool. But Wool was superior to the civil authorities and ordered all whites to leave the upper interior country, setting the Cascade Mountains as the eastern limit of white settlement.

He might as well have held his peace. The whites did not stay out.

Gold had been discovered in the interior country, and gold seekers were not to be deterred by little things like Indian wars or any orders. The possibility of cattle raising in the Inland Empire had also been perceived by keen-eyed emigrants and volunteer soldiers who had penetrated the lands of the Walla Walla, the Umatillas and the Palouses, and they proposed to get in on the ground floor.

In 1857, Wool was superseded by General N. S. Clarke, who modified the exclusion order and permitted settlers to enter. This eventuated a third Indian war, in 1858. None of the fighting in the three campaigns of 1858 occurred in the vicinity of Walla Walla, though this was the headquarters from which most of the expeditions were directed. Despite Steptoe's defeat at the hands of the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene Indians, the hostile tribes were vanquished in the end and forced to abide by the treaties and accept the reservations to which they had agreed. Temporarily retarded by the Indian troubles of 1858, the great influx of settlers did not get under way until 1859 when the country was fully opened.

Thence forward "The Walla Walla Story" echoes not with alarms of war.

EARLY WALLA WALLA

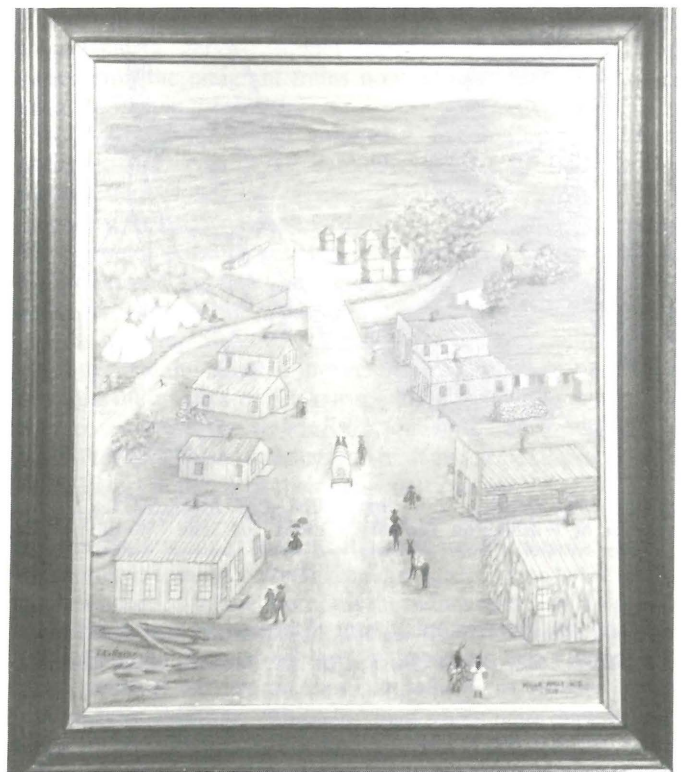
In 1843 the de facto government of American settlers in the Willamette Valley had provided that each American citizen in Oregon might take up 320 acres of land. This legislation was affirmed by Congress when Oregon was finally acquired by the United States, and became the basis of the so-called donation claims. Indian troubles in the wake of the Whitman massacre and the closing of the interior to settlement had prevented the location of many such claims in the Walla Walla country.

When the interior was finally reopened in 1859 there were only five donation claims in the vicinity of Walla Walla, and one of these comprised the lands of the Whitman mission. Already, however, there was a focus of population in the area now occupied by the city of Walla Walla, and settlers soon began to appear in numbers.

The passing of British jurisdiction had resulted in the abandonment of the Hudson's Bay post at Fort Walla Walla (on the Columbia) and Colonel Steptoe's garrison in the upper valley, in 1859, had been made a permanent station for U.S. troops and christened Fort Walla Walla.

Near the new fort rose a straggling community of shacks and tents inhabited by wayfarers and adventurers of every sort. Facetiously and perhaps somewhat derisively this tatterdemalion settlement was called "Steptoeville." Prospectors and emigrants going through made it a regular port of call. Indians in considerable numbers were constantly hanging around, and many were more or less permanently encamped in the neighborhood. Soldiers with time on their hands and money to spend were also much in evidence. It was a place where traders might turn a penny, honestly or dishonestly, with no great effort or capital.

The first regular merchant, William McWhirk, set up his store in a tent near the present corner of Main Street and Second Avenue in the spring of 1857. In the fall of the same year a second store was established, and shortly thereafter others



WALLA WALLA-1859 . . . This is a photograph of an oil painting done by Edna Ankeny from a pen and ink sketch, showing the Walla Walla of 1859.

appeared. The first permanent business buildings (shacks they really were) arose near the present intersection of Main and Third and Main and First.

By 1859, a mongrel collection of tents, cabins and shacks of various descriptions dotted the landscape adjacent to the fort. No regular order of streets was followed. As the builder's fancy dictated, sites were selected along convenient trails or at breaks through the trees and brush growing along the creek. All in all, it was a "roaring camp" such as Bret Harte would have delighted to describe. Every species of vice flourished without restraint, and horse racing and gambling were the principal amusements.

In January, 1859, the territorial legislature passed a measure providing for the organization of government in Walla Walla County, now reduced to include only the area south of the Snake and east of the Columbia. County officers were appointed to serve until the following July when an election was to be held.

This election, the first in Walla Walla County, was required to be held in "the Church at Steptoeville," an edifice of Catholic denomination consisting of poles stuck in the ground and covered with shakes, dirt floor, and but one bench. The officers elected at this time were: Charles Russell, John Mahan, William McWhirk, commissioners; I. T. Reese, auditor; Lycurgus Jackson, sheriff; Neil McGlinchy, treasurer; Thomas Page assessor; C. H. Case, surveyor; J. M. Canady, justice of the peace. Following the election the county rented, at \$40 a month, the upper story of a saloon building situated approximately opposite the location of the present courthouse.

Thus began the government of Walla Walla County.

By vote of the county commissioners on November 7, 1859, the hamlet which popular fancy had dubbed Steptoeville (and also called "Wailetpu") was officially christened Walla Walla.

On December 20, 1859, the Territorial legislature, through the efforts of Cushing Eells, a devoted associate of Marcus

Whitman, granted a charter for an institution of higher learning to be located at Walla Walla and called Whitman Seminary.

Thus, the city of Walla Walla and Whitman College were virtually born together, as in development they have been linked together ever since. Whitman Seminary was the first institution of higher education chartered in the State of Washington. The action of the county commissioners on November 7, 1859, not only legitimized the town and gave it an official name, but also laid out a townsite as follows: "Commencing in the center of Main Street at Mill Creek, thence running north 440 yards, thence west ½ mile to a stake, thence running south ½ mile to a stake, thence running east ½ mile to a stake, thence running north to the point of commencement." Streets were surveyed and building lots laid out. Lots sold at \$5.00 apiece with a dollar extra for recording, and the limit was two per customer. Not until January 11, 1862, was the municipality duly incorporated by the territorial legislature; but the lack of corporate organization made little difference in 1859; the county commissioners had done all that was necessary to start the city on its way.

There was nothing in 1859 to promise more than gradual growth for the infant city of Walla Walla. Settlers were coming in, but there was no great prospect of agricultural development. Grazing was almost the sole possibility for agricultural endeavor, and as the market for cattle was extremely limited there was little outlook for a boom.

But in 1860, gold was discovered in the Orofino district in Idaho, and within a few months there was a rush to the new diggings comparable to the California furor of 1849. Walla Walla was in the midst of a feverish boom, and had grown from a scraggly trading point to a riotous center of no one knows how many inhabitants.

Activity spurted in all lines. There was now a market for all farm products; settlers flocked in to take advantage of the opportunity; merchants and traders came by the hundreds, and there was ample business for all. In 1861, a flour mill was built, a planing mill, a sash and door factory and a brewery. Fifty new buildings were completed in that year and 30 more were under construction. Klondike prices prevailed, and the shortage of supplies was so great that many prospectors, planning to winter in Walla Walla, had to leave in order to escape starvation. In about a year's time more than a million and a half dollars in gold was shipped out of the Orofino mines, and Walla Walla collected toll on most of it.

Lush mines; lush growth!

It is indeed a far cry from the Walla Walla of today to the roistering, booming mining camp of the 60s. Walla Walla was a tough community in those days, so tough that legends of its notorious criminal characters have descended to the present time; but it is significant, too, that the foundations of much that is good and substantial in contemporary life of the city were laid in garish years.

The first school in Walla Walla was opened in the winter of 1861-62; the first permanent church organizations were perfected in the same period. The first newspaper, the Washington Statesman, appeared November 29, 1861. The first regular court was organized on June 4, 1860.

Despite these meliorative and civilizing influences, crime and violence were rampant, and the arm of the law woefully weak. Finally, the patience of the law-abiding element could endure no more. A Vigilance Committee was formed, and through its efforts several conspicuous villains paid for their indiscretions by a one-way trip on the Rope-Collar Line. A general exodus of undesirables quickly followed.

By 1863, the rich placer deposits of of the Central Idaho

mines had been pretty well worked out. The rush of prospectors dwindled to a trickle, and early Walla Walla turned from gold to wheat as the basis of her existence and development.

THE FIRST RAILROAD

Dr. Whitman had fully demonstrated the practicability of general agriculture in the Walla Walla Valley during his 11 years at Waiilatpu, but two decades were to elapse before any considerable farm development could take place.

Long before the Whitmans, the Hudson's Bay Company had proved that almost any of the fruits and vegetables common to the temperate zone could be successfully grown in the Walla Walla region, and had cultivated extensive gardens for the use of the post at Wallula. But stockraising was the only thing that held a clear promise of livelihood for the settler of the 50s and 60s. The whole region south of the Snake and east of the Columbia was natural cattle country, and so remained until the gold rush created a market for all kinds of farm produce.

In 1857, one of the officers at the fort planted a garden and was surprised at the exceptionally fine results. The following year the wagon master at the post experimented with a crop of barley and got 50 bushels to the acre. Good crops of oats and wheat were harvested at two or three different points in the valley for the years 1859 and 1860, but there was not enough demand to stimulate production.

The gold rush created a tremendous demand for grains of all kinds. In 1861, wheat sold for \$2.50 a bushel, and flour was \$1.00 a pound at the mines. Hay sold at \$125 a ton in the winter of 1861-62, butter at \$3.00 a pound, eggs at \$1.00 a dozen and bacon and lard at \$1.25 a pound. A good farm promised a surer road to wealth than a gold mine, and the returns were about as good. Home-seekers flocked in with the miners, and by 1863 thousands of acres of land had been broken and placed under cultivation.

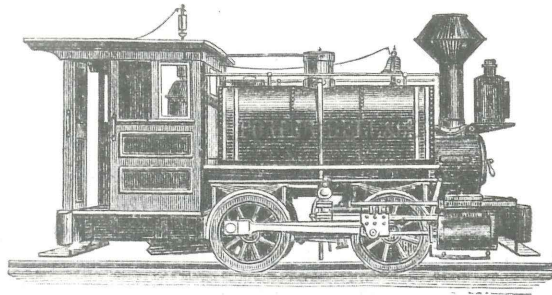
By 1867, however, the bonanza days were gone. Demand from the mines slackened, both because of the decline in mining activity and the development of farm lands nearer the mines. Walla Walla farmers found themselves with a surplus on their hands and had to find markets at seaboard. Transportation costs were ruinously high and left the farmer little margin of profit. Thus early in its career did Walla Walla become acquainted with the perennial problem of agricultural depression.

Transportation was then, as now, Walla Walla's most obvious handicap. Passenger traffic went by stage or horseback; freight had to be moved by wagon to and from the boat lines on the Columbia River. Above all else, Walla Walla needed a railroad, but none of the great transcontinentals were projected this way. It remained for local enterprise to provide the first rail connection with the outside world.

In 1871, Dr. D. S. Baker, a pioneer of '59 who had become one of the leading figures in the commercial and financial affairs of the community, undertook to build a railroad from Walla Walla to Wallula. It was a homespun project from beginning to end. Construction began at "Slabtown," near Wallula. Dr. Baker himself scouted for timber on the upper reaches of the Yakima River, floated his logs down to the mouth of that stream whence they were rafted to the spot called Slabtown where they were milled into ties and rails — yes, rails, for this was the renowned "Rawhide" railroad that won nationwide notoriety.

Iron or steel rails were unavailable. Four-by-six timbers of fir, 16 feet long, were used instead. These were joined together, wedged into the ties, and then surfaced with strap iron two inches wide. It was a tricky contraption, but it served the purpose.

Thousands of tons of freight rolled over these wooden rails



FIRST LOCOMOTIVE . . . for Dr. Dorsey Baker's 1875 railroad
 . . W.W. Baker (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

before they were finally replaced with steel. The strap iron developed a cantankerous habit of working loose and then winding around the wheels and crashing through the flooring of the cars. Derailments were frequent and speed necessarily kept at a snail's pace. Night runs were too dangerous to be attempted. The oddity of the line gave currency to the story that the rails were bound with rawhide which softened in the winter and was eaten by hungry coyotes, thus putting the road out of commission.

When the road reached Waiilatpu in 1874, Dr. Baker announced that this would have to be the terminus, as his funds were exhausted. Citizens of Walla Walla then raised a fund of \$25,000 to complete the construction into the city. The road was well managed and made good money for its owners. Later it was sold to the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, now the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Co., a subsidiary of the Union Pacific.

After the completion of the main line of the Northern Pacific in 1881, that road began to develop feeders in all directions. Through the acquisition of the Washington and Columbia River Railroad, more commonly known in former times as the Hunt Road, it came into Walla Walla. The Hunt Road was started

by Pendleton interests in 1887 and taken over by Mr. G. W. Hunt who built a series of lines from Hunt's Junction, near Wallula, to Helix, Athena, and Pendleton, and to Walla Walla, Waitsburg, and Dayton, with a branch to Eureka Flat.

Though denied a place on the main lines and considerably handicapped thereby, Walla Walla was much benefited by the coming of the railroads. The whole western country was rapidly filling up and Walla Walla was enabled to share in this development. Terminal markets, both east and west, were made accessible. Agriculture became increasingly diversified and capable of supporting larger populations. Smaller towns sprang up all around, and Walla Walla took its destined place as the commercial center of the Blue Mountain region.

A REVIEW OF OUR BEGINNINGS ...

It now remains to review in a brief and cursory way the beginnings of political, professional and cultural life in Walla Walla County.

Washington Territory was organized into three, later four, judicial districts. Walla Walla was designated as the seat of the First Judicial District, and there, on June 4, 1860, Judge William Strong presiding, the first term of court was held. Succeeding Judge Strong in chronological order until statehood arrived were Judge James E. Wyche, James K. Kennedy, J. R. Lewis, Samuel C. Wingard and William G. Langford. Attracted by the possibilities of practice in this huge judicial district, many able lawyers took up residence in Walla Walla and toured the circuit as the judge went from place to place holding court. Never since, say some reminiscent oldsters, has Walla Walla had so brilliant a bar as in territorial days. Though often hotly contested, political issues in Walla Walla have never seriously disturbed the serenity of the community. Feeling sometimes ran high between Democrats and Republicans in the 1860s, but the Civil War was too remote to stir the community very deeply. It had its own fish to fry and these had little to do with the question of secession and slavery.

Perhaps the most exciting political question of the 60s was



1886 VIEW AT FIRST AND MAIN . . . Camera was facing west in this horse-and-buggy era. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

the proposal to annex Walla Walla County . . . all the territory south of the Snake . . . to Oregon. Walla Walla residents were much divided on the question and it furnished material for warm discussion, but like many issues of the kind, it never came to a head.

Walla Walla became an incorporated city on Jan. 11, 1862, and held her first election for city officials on the first of April the same year. E. D. Whitman was chosen mayor; also elected were a recorder, a marshal, an attorney, an assessor, a treasurer, a surveyor, a clerk and five councilmen. Newspaper charges of corruption and loose practice were hurled about, the principal complaint being that the election judges allowed many to vote who were not bonafide residents of the city but actually lived far out in the country.

The first problem the city government had to wrestle with was the same which gives it most trouble today — the revenue problem. The city fathers of '62 decided that the easiest and most profitable source of revenue would be the saloon business and proceeded to levy upon these palaces of pleasure for about a third of the annual revenue of the city. The rest was expected to come from licenses and fines. Property taxes were negligible.

Marcus Whitman, of course, was the first physician in Walla Walla County. Historians have failed to record the name of his earliest successor, but it was doubtless some one of the army surgeons stationed at Fort Walla Walla. Among the earlier medical practitioners of Walla Walla were Doctors J. E. Bingham, J. H. Day, and N. G. Blalock. Hospitals were non-existent, also trained nurses. The sick were cared for in the home, and practically all surgery was done in the same place.

The first public school in Walla Walla was opened in a private house near the present intersection of Palouse and Alder streets in the autumn of 1861. The teacher, A. J. Miner, had about a dozen pupils, about a third of whom were half breeds. At the election of 1862, J. F. Wood was chosen superintendent of schools and District No. 1 was organized. A room was rented and by the fall of '64 the enrollment had reached 93. In December of that year it was voted to levy a tax of 2½ mills to erect a school building.

Dr. D. S. Baker donated the land later occupied by the Baker School and there was erected, at a cost of \$2,000, the first public school building in the Inland Empire. The present building on the same site (now site of a motel) was erected in 1882. By 1886, there were 27 school districts in the county and 22 schools.

In that year, Whitman Seminary, chartered in 1859, first opened its doors to receive students.

In 1864, the Sisters of Providence opened a school for girls on the location where St. Mary's Hospital now stands, and in 1865, St. Patrick's Academy for boys was opened on the site of the present Catholic Church.

St. Paul's School for Girls was established in September, 1872, by the Reverend L. H. Wells, who in the previous year had organized St. Paul's Church. *(The school has long been removed and in its place is St. Paul's Apartments. — Editors).*

Leaving out of account the activities of the missionaries, the credit for the first church in Walla Walla goes to the Roman Catholic denomination. Near the present intersection of Third and Poplar in 1859 the Catholic congregation erected a structure of poles and shakes that was honored by the territorial legislature as "the Church in Steptoeville." A new Catholic edifice was built in 1861 on the present site of St. Vincent's Academy *(7th and Poplar, and now the location of St. Mary Medical Center. — Editors).*

The Methodists built a church at the present corner of Fifth and Alder in 1860, Methodist services having been started at other locations the previous October. Whitman and the Spaldings represented the Congregational denomination. After the massacre, no Congregational services were held in Walla Walla County until Cushing Eells returned in 1859 and began services on the site of the Whitman mission. In 1864, the first Congregational edifice was erected in the city. In 1865, a United Brethren Church was formed. The decade of the 70s saw established practically all of the other major denominations of the present time.

The Washington Statesman, Walla Walla's first newspaper, made its debut on Nov. 29, 1861. Initially independent in politics, it finally turned Democratic and was vociferous in its support of President Johnson in his quarrels with the radical Republicans of Congress. The community contained many strong champions of Thaddeus Stevens and the Congress, and they decided to have a paper to voice their side of the case. A group of them signed notes for the necessary funds and, on April 17, 1869, appeared the first issue of the Walla Walla Union. These two continued to be the leading newspapers of the city until after the turn of the century. The Union still survives as the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin, but the Statesman ceased publication in 1910.

WALLA WALLA . . . AS IT LOOKS TO ME

By BILL GULICK

(This article, written in 1953, reflected in 1988 exactly what Bill Gulick felt when he put down his roots in Walla Walla nearly 40 years ago. Or, as he penned in response when we were assembling this edition, "Surprisingly enough, after all these years, I find nothing that needs to be changed in this article." Numerous books and movies have come from the highly productive mind of this nationally recognized author. In most recent years titles such as "Snake River Country" and "Nez Perce Country" come readily to mind, along with the trilogy published in spring and summer of 1988, "Northwest Destiny." Our thanks to Bill Gulick for granting his permission to reprint his 1953 article.)

One of the few advantages that the writer of fiction enjoys over the salaried job-holder is that he may live where he chooses. Greenwich Village apartment, wilderness cabin, ivory tower — any place of abode served by the U.S. Mails will do. Over a period of years my own mailing address has changed many times as I tried first one place and another — Oklahoma, New York, Arizona, Puget Sound, the hills of New England, Texas, Mexico. Each place had its virtues and its faults, from my own personal viewpoint, and whenever the faults overbalanced the virtues, I moved on.

In 1949 I stopped moving. And the place in which I stopped was Walla Walla.

Why? It never occurred to me that I would have to answer that question with anything more than the simple statement, "Because I like it here." But now that I have been asked, as



LOOKING TO THE SOUTHWEST . . . Roof of Marcus Whitman Tower provides good view of city hall, right foreground, Dacres Hotel, St. Mary Medical Center and St. Patrick Church.

a comparative newcomer, to tell why the town impressed me as an excellent one in which to settle down, I find that my reasons for liking Walla Walla are many.

When my wife and I went shopping for a new home town in 1949, we knew in a general way the virtues we were looking for; we knew in a most definite way the faults which we wished to avoid. Neither of us cared for the long gray days of rain so often found in coastal cities. Smog, noise, big city traffic, the hurry and bustle of metropolitan areas were also things we could live quite nicely without. On the other hand, we were ready to look with favor upon any town that offered us a reasonable amount of sunshine, clean air, quiet and a more leisurely way of life.

Our search covered a period of several weeks and portions of three states — Washington, Oregon and Idaho. We wished to live in the Pacific Northwest, that much we knew from the beginning, for transferring the rich, scarcely touched crude ore of its history into fiction is a task I long ago dedicated myself to. So the only problem was to find just the right place within the boundaries of the region.

We drove up and down both shores of the Columbia River, from its mouth inland, wandered north to the Canadian border along the eastern slopes of the Cascades, swung east through the Grand Coulee country, south through the rich grain and cattle region of eastern Washington and western Idaho, climbed into the wild, beautiful mountain country of northeast Oregon. And then, one bright summer afternoon we found ourselves looking down into the Walla Walla Valley from the heights of the Blue Mountains.

Many highways lead into Walla Walla from many directions, but of them all none give as spectacular and dramatic a view of the town and valley as does the one which comes in from the southeast by way of La Grande and Elgin over the summit of the Blue Mountains. This is the route the trappers, the fur traders and the emigrant wagons took West. Fremont and Kit Carson passed this way. Captain Bonneville, John Astor's overland party and that great host of adventurers and explorers who sought the legendary "River of the West," followed this old, old trail, and — like ourselves — reached a spot on the western slopes of the Blues where the pines thinned out and gave them their first glimpse of the Columbia River and the Empire through which it flowed.

From the 4500-foot height the mountains fall steeply away. Directly to the northwest and nearly four thousand feet below lies the Walla Walla Valley, most of the town's houses obscured by the many shade trees which in summer make it a cool oasis in a hot dry land. Further west the land flattens out — sagebrush and bunchgrass land with thin lines of trees marking the stream courses. In the middle distance, thirty or forty miles away, the Columbia River shows as a thin silver thread coming down from the north, bending west toward the Pacific through the looming bluffs of Wallula Gap — a thread which it is hard to believe is a river a mile wide.

If the day is clear and without haze, particularly along about sunset, one may see two tiny projections far, far to the west — Mount Hood and Mount Adams — both over 11,000 feet in height and upwards of two hundred miles away.

It is a view to remember. There are many versions of how Walla Walla Valley got its name, but after standing there on the heights, looking west, I personally am inclined to agree with the minority school of historians who claim that the name was born when some travel-weary French trapper came out into that clearing, saw the distant panorama of valley, river and plain, and cried, "Voila! Voila!"

"Look! Look!" Or, if your pronunciation of French is bad, "Walla! Walla!"

So, that was how we first saw the valley. A favorable first impression, certainly. But one does not adopt a town simply because it looks good from a mountain top miles away. It impressed us favorably in other ways in the days to come. Here are a few of them.

The trees. Locust, elm, maple, sycamore, the beautiful weeping birch — every lovely shade tree that grows seemed to be found along the streets of the residential districts. And on the fruit farms surrounding the town were the apple, pear, plum, cherry, prune — acre after acre of them. The entire valley seemed covered with a canopy of trees, which tempered summer heat and winter cold.

We were not, we learned, the first newcomers to remark the amazing number of trees in the town. A novelist visiting here some time ago, gathering material for a book, had been in town only a few days when a title for the unwritten piece popped full blown into her mind. "What else can I call it?" she said, "but 'The Trees'?"

We noticed, too, the cleanliness of the town. No industrial smoke. No grimy buildings. No slums. Clean, wide streets — which wander about with no respect for compass points, it must be admitted. A clean blue sky which at times makes the mountains to the southeast appear so close that more than one newcomer has thought them to be hills only a few hundred feet high instead of the real mountains they are.

The climate. Climate-wise, we found, the Walla Walla Valley is favored as few other valleys are. This was a thing that took us some years to learn, though we now have become so accustomed to its many good points that we criticize its few bad points just as the rest of the natives do.

Yes, in summers it gets hot. Particularly if one is walking on the unshaded side of the street where sidewalk and asphalt store up reflected sunshine. But there are few days when a gentle breeze from the west does not give relief and there is always available shade. And at night, just after sundown, the direction of the breeze changes, coming down cool off the mountains then, even in the worst hot spells of July. Time and again we have sat in the dusk outside the house observing that phenomenon. The west wind gradually dying away. The period of utter stillness. The first rustle of leaves in the trees above us, the cool southeast wind, followed shortly by a general movement inside for coats

and sweaters.

No valley in the West is more familiar with that peculiar freak of weather called the Chinook than is the Walla Walla Valley. It may be January, ten below zero and a foot of snow on the ground when one goes to bed, the night clear and still. Then, in the small hours of the morning a sound awakens one — a sighing, a moaning through the bare-limbed trees, growing to a roar. You rise and throw open the door. From the southeast blows a strong wind, a warm wind. In a matter of minutes the temperature rises to fifty, even sixty degrees — and by morning spring is on the land. The Chinook has come.

We like the pace of the town. Not a sleepy pace, by any means, but rather the relaxed, unhurried pace of people who have work to do and do it but who know from long experience that the slow, sure way is often the best way. Walla Walla has long had a reputation for being a conservative town. But its people are certainly not backward. If they were, the wheat farmers would still be harvesting their crops with horse-drawn headers instead of immense Caterpillar-drawn combines and would trust to Providence to keep the weeds and insects out of their crops instead of hiring planes to dust and spray.

The conservatism of Walla Walla at times takes odd shapes. Conservatism usually means formality, both in manner and in dress. Yet no one ever speaks of the Mayor without using his first name — and a nickname at that. And which individual is it that gets the promptest, most courteous service in stores and restaurants — the man in a well pressed suit and necktie or the man in faded denims, plaid shirt and a shapeless hat? Chances are, he owns a Cadillac or two and several thousand acres of wheat land, while the man in coat and necktie is a traveling salesman just passing through.

We like the elbow room in the town. It has been a pet theory of ours that most of the world's ills would cure themselves if a law were passed that every house must be built on no less than an acre of land. Lots of Walla Wallans seem to agree with us, for apartment houses are few, acreages "out aways" many.

We like the size of the town — not so big but what one can drive most anyplace he wants to go in ten minutes through moderate traffic (and usually find a parking place), not so small but what there are new and interesting people to meet now and then. In location, it is somewhat insular, but the interests of its people by no means end at the valley's confines. We know, for instance, an 83-year-old man who migrated here from England in his youth and at first worked herding sheep back in the foothills — now he flies to Hawaii and back each year to visit his grandson, who is one of the top TV entertainers in Honolulu. We know another elderly gentleman who may one minute tell vivid stories passed on to him by his grandfather — who came West with the emigration of '43 and talked to Fremont and Kit Carson — and who may the next speak with pride of his grandson,

who is a prominent educator in the East.

Walla Walla, it seems to us, is a three-dimensional town — one with a past, a present and a future. All of them colorful. In the past live the Whitman story, the Oregon Trail saga, the wild and wooly days of the Idaho gold boom when Walla Walla was as rough and tough as towns come. In the present we have the ever-colorful drama of the soil — the immense wheat farms, cattle ranches, the fruit and vegetable farms. Few valleys do as much to feed the world as does this one. In the future? Well, many of the engineers who are building the great dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers — dams such as those which supply electricity to the Hanford Atomic Project — these men are here, planning and building for an as yet not-clear future.

No other town in which we ever lived has such a fondness for live entertainment. Stage plays, parades, musical concerts, pageants, the Southeastern Washington Fair, baseball, football and others sports — any sort of entertainment offering real live people is invariably well patronized. There are, we will solemnly swear, as many saddle horses in Walla Walla as there are people, and if the present mania for boats continues, now that nearby McNary and other dams have been completed, the same may soon be said about watercraft. There are, in fact, so many kinds of activity into which a person may join with little or no formality that if he is not careful he will find himself involved in so many of them that he will be forced to hie himself off to some quiet place like New York City for a few weeks of rest and recuperation.

For many years, we found, Walla Walla has been searching for some phrase or sentence that would, in a few words, give the key to its personality. None quite made the grade. Al Jolson tried, when he called it "The City They Liked So Well, They Named It Twice," but his effort went somehow shy of the mark. "The Key City" — that, too, has been used, but it, too, is not quite accurate. Probably no single phrase ever could be accurate.

Not long ago we were reading a travel book written by a lady who journeyed all over the West about 1900. She goes into raptures describing Walla Walla — praising its trees, its climate, its people — then she adds this somewhat puzzled, angry comment, "But the trouble with people in Walla Walla is that they think it the best place on earth in which to live."

The good lady no doubt was right. And she comes rather close to describing that illusive spirit of contentment which the stranger in Walla Walla mistakes for complacency.

But if I were asked to coin a phrase that might catch the spirit of the town, I think I would simply repeat one which I have heard many times since moving here. Time and again, upon finding out I was a newcomer, people have asked me how I liked Walla Walla. I have replied that I liked it fine, and they have then said with no conscious pride, no sense of boasting, "Well, it's a good place to raise a family."

Which comes as close as anyone ever will come. Or so it seems to me . . .

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS ARE POINTS OF INTEREST

Several monuments and markers in Walla Walla and nearby vicinity tell of the heroes and the events which have gone into the early history of the area.

One of the first — and certainly the most prominent — is the Whitman Memorial shaft atop the hill overlooking the Great Grave at the Whitman Mission National Historic Site, seven miles west of Walla Walla on U.S. Highway 12. This was dedicated in 1897 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Whitman massacre.

In the same general area are to be found two more markers, both located on the south side of U.S. 12. One, at Whitman Station, is dedicated to the travelers of the Old Oregon Trail and marks that part of the route between Old Fort Walla Walla (on the Columbia) and Waiilatpu, the Whitmans' mission.

Four miles east of Lowden is the granite marker which locates several points of Walla Walla history. The inscription on this marker reads: "Here stood St. Rose Mission, also known as Frenchtown . . . cemetery on hill north (of marker) . . . Oregon Volunteers fought the Indians, Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10, 1855. Chief Peu- Peu-Mox-Mox of Walla Wallas slain."

With the inundation of the site of the Hudson's Bay Co. outpost at the mouth of the Walla Walla River by the backwaters from McNary Dam, it was necessary to move the granite marker



MONUMENT TO CHIEF LAWYER . . . is found on Whitman College campus at University and Stanton Streets.

there. It told the location of the fur traders' post which was later to be known as Old Fort Walla Walla. This marker is now located on U.S. Highway 12 directly opposite Wallula, moved to higher ground there because of McNary Dam's pool.

The first two white women to cross the plains to the West are honored with a monument located at the triangular park on Park Street near Prentiss Hall on Whitman College campus. Dedicated in 1930, the marker honors Narcissa Prentiss Whitman and Eliza Spalding.

The 1855 conference of Indians with newly-appointed Governor of the Territory of Washington, Isaac Stevens, is marked by a monument on the lawn at the rear of the Carnegie Art Center building near Park and East Alder streets.

Chief Lawyer, leader of 2,000 Nez Perce Indians, is honored for his role in saving the life of Stevens and others of the official party at the conference by a monument at the entrance to the amphitheater on the Whitman campus at Stanton and University Streets.

Members of the First U.S. Cavalry who were slain in a skirmish

with Chief Joseph's warriors in 1877 are honored by a shaft in the old military cemetery adjacent to Fort Walla Walla Museum in the Fort Walla Walla Park. In this plot are also buried representatives of many other volunteer and regular Army organizations which played prominent roles in the region's early life.

A tablet on the Liberty Theater on Main Street between First and Colville avenues, marks the site of the "temporary" Fort Walla Walla, established in 1856 and later moved to the site now included in the U. S. Veterans Administration Medical Center. This cantonment, built by Lt. Col. E. J. Steptoe, was the beginning of Walla Walla.

A marker located just across from the entrance to the Walla Walla Country Club honors a pioneer woman and an early settler of the city. The inscription reads: "To mark the site of the Ransom Clark Donation Claim and to honor the memory of Lettice J. Reynolds, 1830-1911. A pioneer of 1843 with Whitman's Train and widow of Ransom Clark, the brave woman completed the trip in 1859 under trying conditions calling for the greatest courage."

The Ransom Clark cabin, built on this claim in 1859, stands today in the "Pioneer Village" of restored buildings of the area at Fort Walla Walla Museum.

Veterans of three wars are honored by suitable monuments. In Pioneer Park is a large cannon on a polished granite pedestal which honors veterans of the Civil War. Veterans of the Spanish-American War of 1898 are commemorated by a statue on the lawn of the Central Christian Church at the corner of Palouse and East Alder streets. Veterans of the Vietnam War are remembered by a monument placed in 1987 at the military cemetery in Fort Walla Walla Park. A venture of the City of Walla Walla, veterans organizations and the Walla Walla Senior Citizens center, the monument was dedicated by U. S. Rep. Thomas Foley.

A statue of Christopher Columbus stands on the lawn of the Walla Walla County Courthouse on West Main Street, a gift of the Italian people of Walla Walla, to mark the first observance of Columbus Day in Washington State, Oct. 12, 1911.

Firemen are signally honored with two statues, both of which are located at Mountain View Cemetery, South Second Avenue and Abbott Road. One, in the Odd Fellows cemetery there, is of Robert J. Wolfe, city fireman who died in 1912, in the line of duty. The other, near the entrance to the cemetery, pays tribute to the memory of deceased firemen.

The historic "Mullan Road," built by the Army from 1858 to 1862 by Capt. John Mullan, is marked by a plaque on a granite slab at the entrance to the state penitentiary. Another is found at Prescott and a third in this area, was located at the Lyons Ferry Crossing but was brought to Fort Walla Walla Museum with construction of a bridge at the ferry site. The road was built as an overland section of river transportation from the head of navigation of the Missouri River at Fort Benton, Missouri, to termination at Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River.

Alumni of Whitman College have provided added commemoration to the name of the pioneer doctor-missionary with the placing of a bronze plaque in the lobby of the former Marcus Whitman Hotel, now part of the Whitman Motor Inn.

At Rooks Park, four miles east of Walla Walla on Mill Creek, a marker and the park honor the memory of Walla Wallan, Capt. Harold Rooks, commander of the U.S.S. Houston, sunk in battle during World War II in the Pacific.

THROUGH THE YEARS—A CHRONOLOGY OF OUR HERITAGE

These words prefaced the 1953 section *Through the Years in Walla Walla*:

"The records of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin include two sets of information about events 'through the years in Walla Walla.' One is classified by topic, the other by the date of a particular news event. From these records, news editor Claude M. Gray has chosen the items on this and succeeding pages as representative highlights of the day-to-day activities of the community from the time Washington became a territory up to the present period of television broadcasts."

Those words have been retained as Gray compiled them from the records of the newspaper of that time. Only an occasionally minor, obviously needed correction or change has been made.

To continue from 1953 to 1988, we have again made use of Union-Bulletin resources: the annual "Progress Edition," which has become known as the "Feature Edition," the annual "Top Twenty News Stories," a January feature, and another feature of yesteryear, "On This Date." From these, and scrapbooks maintained in the office of the city manager, we have gleaned the information to continue Gray's excellent gathering of information about Walla Walla for this chronology.)

1853

March 3 — Territory of Washington created. Isaac I. Stevens appointed first territorial governor.

1854

April 16 — Walla Walla County organized.

1855

June 12 — Governor Stevens completed treaties with Indian tribes at council held here. Congress ratified treaties March 8, 1859.

1856

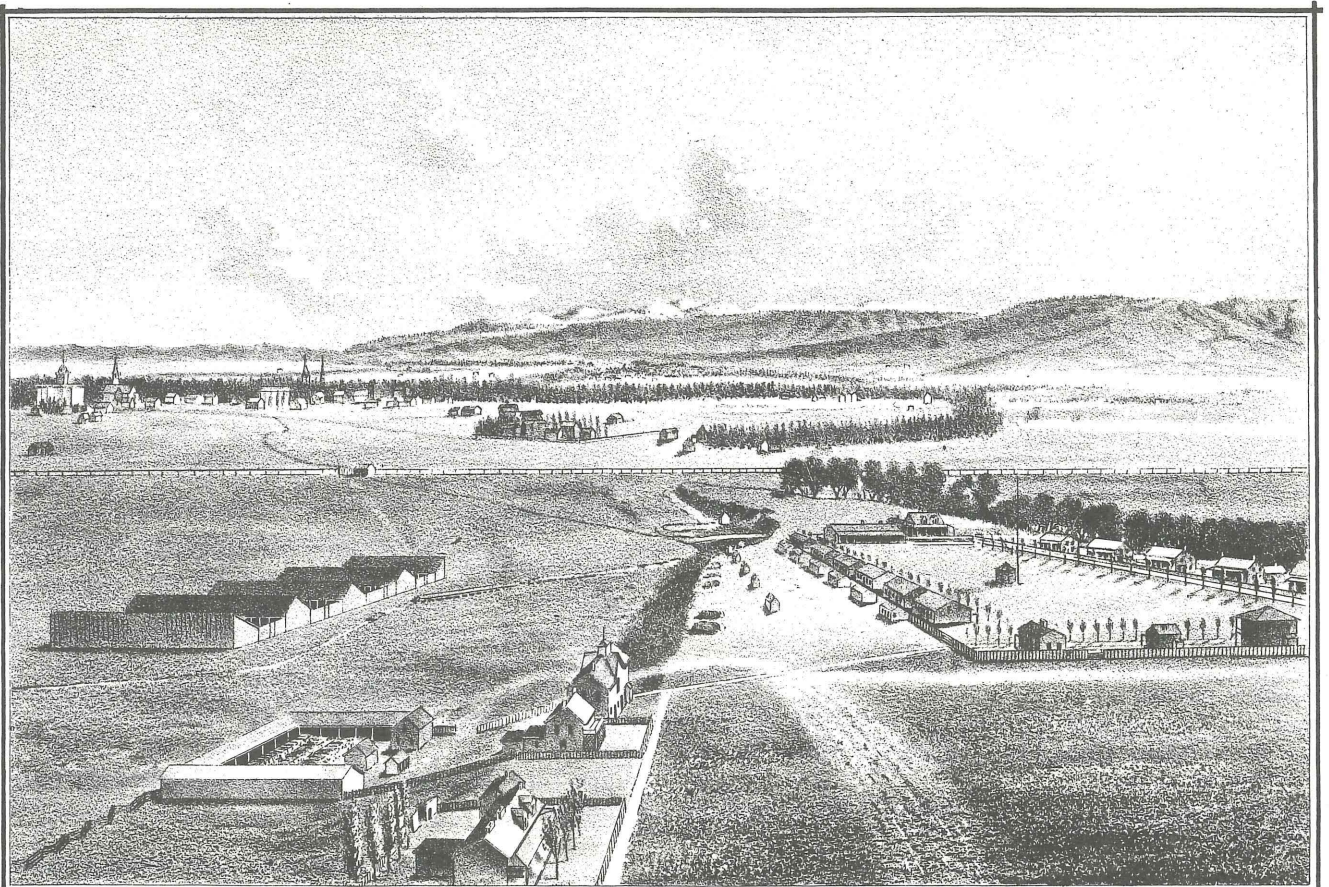
Colonel Steptoe completed first buildings at Fort Walla Walla on the banks of Mill Creek near present Colville Street just before Christmas.

1857

William McWhirk opened a tent store that spring, the first business in Walla Walla.

1858

May 6 — Colonel Steptoe left Walla Walla with 130 dragoons, heading north to punish the Indians. Then followed the disastrous battle near Steptoe Butte (now a state park near Rosalia, off U.S. Highway 195).



VIEW FROM THE GARRISON AT WALLA WALLA LOOKING TO THE NORTH EAST
SKETCHED FOR F. T. GILBERT'S HISTORY OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY

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TEMPORARY ARMY GARRISON . . . (Ft. Walla Walla) was in vicinity of First and Main streets, winter of 1856-57.

June 2 — William Craig assumed duties as first postmaster of Waiilatpu (later to be named Walla Walla).

Oct. 31 — Walla Walla country thrown open to settlement after many years of Indian troubles.

1859

Jan. 22 — District court for Spokane and Walla Walla counties provided by legislative enactment; organized the following June.

March 15 — Walla Walla County commissioners held initial meeting.

May 7 — County set first tax at 7 mills.

July 1 — Lt. John Mullan left Walla Walla with road crew. In 1861 Mullan and his men completed a road to Fort Benton, Montana, 624 miles distant.

July 6 — First white boy born here; Charles L. Sweazea.

Oct. 11 — Methodist Church organized. Church, first Protestant church here, was built at Fifth and Alder and completed in the fall of 1860.

Oct. 19 — Walla Walla Masonic Lodge No. 7 established as city's first lodge; group incorporated in 1864.

Meat market and packing plant was started which later became Walla Walla Meat & Cold Storage Co.

Catholic fathers erected a structure of poles and shakes at Third and Poplar which was described as a "church." (It was the first Catholic church building here and was also used as the first polling place in 1859. See Maxey's *The Historical Walla Walla Valley*, in this book).

Nov. 17 — County commissioners voted to change the city's name from Steptoeville to Walla Walla.

Dec. 20 — Territorial legislature granted a charter for Whitman Seminary. First students received in 1866.

1860

June 4 — The first term of court ever conducted in Washington Territory convened in Walla Walla.

Sept. 1 — Schwabacher Company (later, known as Gardner & Co. for many years) opened. It was incorporated in 1890.

Jan. 29 — Legislature rejected a bill to create Territory of Walla Walla, thus ending possibility of naming the state Walla Walla.

Nov. 29 — The Washington Statesman, first newspaper between Missouri and the Cascades, made its debut in Walla Walla.

First public school opened that fall in private house near today's intersection of Palouse and Alder. A. J. Milner was the teacher.

First theater was opened here, operated by J. B. Robinson. It burned the following year; an incendiary was blamed.

1862

Jan. 11 — Territorial legislature passed an act incorporating City of Walla Walla. Re-incorporation came in 1883.

Jan. 28 — Walla Walla declared county seat. The county included all of the present Eastern Washington together with the entire state of Idaho, and about a fourth of Montana and some of Oregon.

March 1 — City council, named in legislative incorporation act, held first meeting.

April 1 — Tally showed 422 votes cast in first city election.

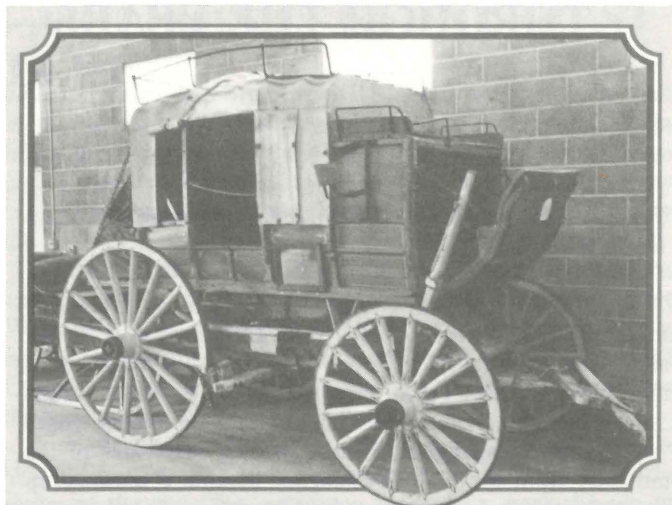
June 16 — School District No. 1 organized; school opened July 10 with 57 pupils.

July 6 — First marriage recorded in county: Lt. Henry McCann and Josephine L. Forrest.

1863

Jan. 24 — Enterprise Odd Fellows lodge organization approved.

Jan. 28 — Charter granted Walla Walla and Columbia River Railroad Co. for line from Wallula landing on Columbia to



1860s WALLA WALLA STAGECOACH . . . mate to this one, as displayed in Ft. Walla Walla Museum, was rebuilt and is in use by Walla Walla '59ers. (Courtesy Ft. Walla Walla Museum)

Walla Walla. Construction began in 1871.

July 1 — Tri-weekly mail began by stage coach with The Dalles.

Dec. 4 — First Whitman Seminary opened at (former grounds of) Whitman mission, with 13 pupils. Edwin Eells in charge — lasted three months and moved to Walla Walla in 1866.

1864

Feb. 18 — St. Vincent's Catholic school began.

Sisters of Providence (Catholic) started a girls' school at Fifth and Alder.

1865

Jan. 1 — First Congregational Church of Walla Walla, first in territory, organized.

Jan. 20 — Walla Walla Library Association organized.

St. Patrick's Academy for Boys (Catholic) opened at Sixth and Alder.

1866

Oct. 4-6 — First fair (forerunner of Southeastern Washington Fair) organized by newly formed Agricultural Society. H. P. Isaacs president.

1867

Mar. 11 — County purchased building at Third and Alder for first courthouse.

1868

March 23 — Walla Walla and Columbia River Railroad incorporated.

1869

July — The A. H. Reynolds Bank began, first bank in Walla Walla.

Nov. 10 — The Baker-Boyer Bank, now the Baker-Boyer National Bank, was opened. It is now the oldest existing bank in the city and state.

April 17 — First issue of the Walla Walla Union, a predecessor of the Union-Bulletin, appeared.

1870

June 1 — Telegraph line between Walla Walla and Portland completed.

1872

First weather records started by Isaac Straight, jeweler. (Government keeping of weather records started in 1885.)

Jan. 17 — St. Paul's Episcopal Church organized. In August, St. Paul's School for Girls was founded. It was incorporated in September, 1897.

1873

Jan. 5 — First Cumberland Presbyterian Church organized.

1874

Jan. 2 — Coal oil street lights installed.

May 23 — City's first baseball team organized.

July 23 — Stine House (early day hotel) held its "grand opening."

Dec. 21 — Dr. J. H. Day installed city's first commercial gas lighting in his drugstore.

1875

Walla Walla Board of Immigration organized (forerunner of Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce.)

Oct. 23 — Walla Walla & Columbia River Railroad (Baker Line) completed from Wallula to Walla Walla. On same date, telegraph line from Baker (Ore.) to Walla Walla completed, providing telegraphic communication with the East.

Nov. 11 — Bill signed creating Columbia County (formerly a part of Walla Walla County.)

Dec. 3 — Telegraph line from Walla Walla to Boise (Idaho) completed.

1877

Feb. 22 — Tiger Company No. 1, volunteer fire department, organized.

1878

Jan. 19 — Masons and Odd Fellows purchased land for cemetery.

March 9 — Walla Walla Philharmonic Society (now Walla Walla Symphony) organized.

March 18 — First National Bank founded. It was the first national bank in the state and is now the Walla Walla branch, Seattle-First National Bank.

June 15 — First telephone between express office and

postoffice put into use. Also was connected with O.S.N. Company wire to Wallula 30 miles away. Words sounded "as though uttered by person in deep well."

1879

May 11 — First Baptist Church organized with five members.

July 3 — Sgt. Frank Grene, U. S. Signal Service, arrived in Dayton to open weather bureau; later moved to Walla Walla.

July 6 — Daily stage mail service to Lewiston started.

July 6 — Gaity Theater, first real road show theater here, shared honor of being the first in the state, with Squire's Opera House in Seattle. Both opened in 1879.

1881

Feb. 8 — Grand Army of the Republic group organized.

March 18 — Washington Lodge, IOOF, instituted.

April 20 — Walla Walla Board of Trade held first regular meeting. Levi Ankeny named president.

July 9 — Excavation started for new gas works.

July 31 — St. Patrick's Catholic church dedicated and first high mass held in new building.

Oct. 10 — Walla Walla Union, started in 1869, began daily publication.

Nov. 4 — First gas street light installed.

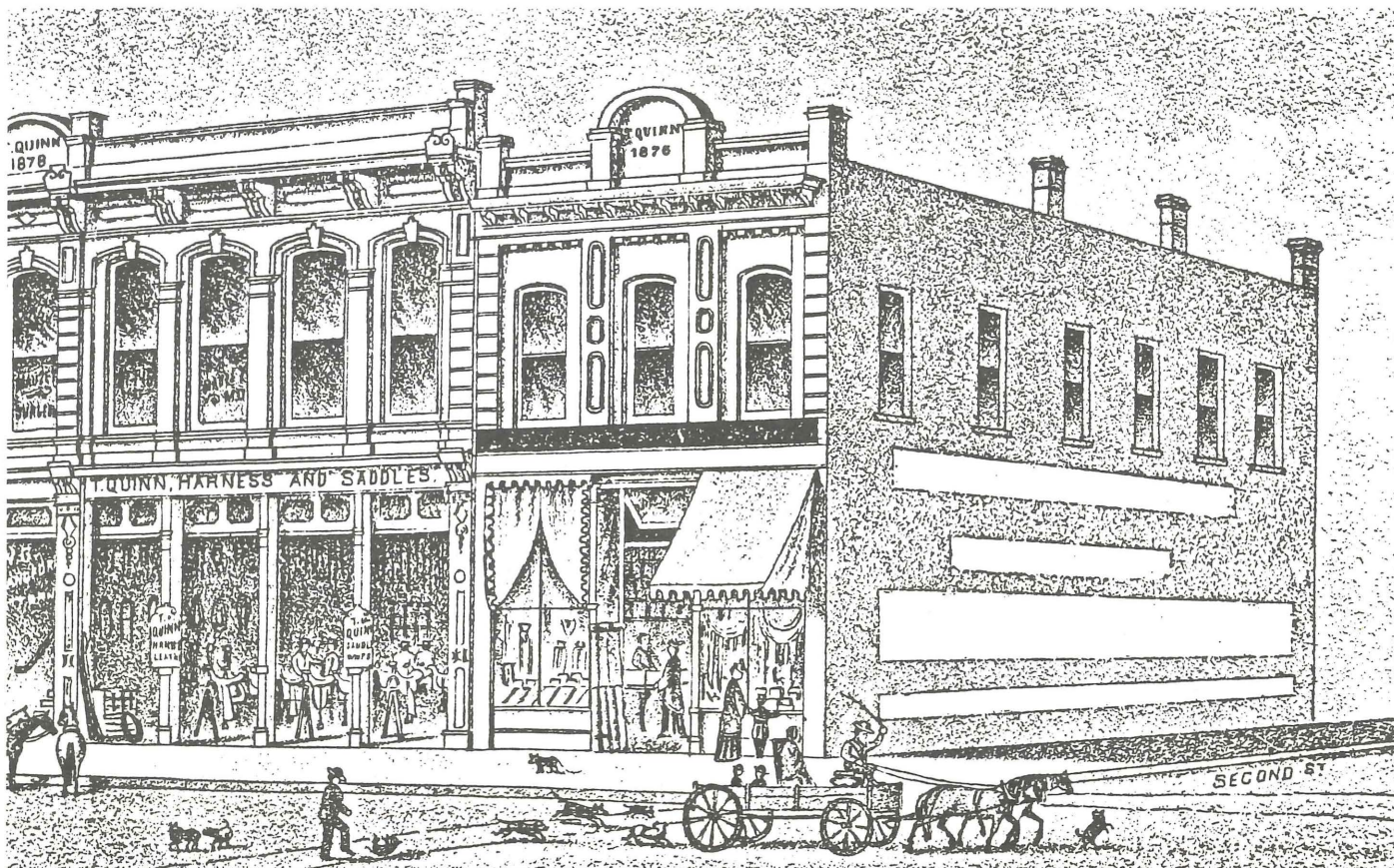
1882

March 23 — Dr. Alexander J. Anderson elected president of Whitman College which, in September, offered first college courses.

Nov. 4 — O. & W. T. Railroad (Hunt Line) transferred to W. & C. R. (later Northern Pacific Railway. . . and now (1988) Burlington Northern Inc.).

1883

Aug. 18 — Northern Pacific's first mail delivery from the East arrived.



SECOND AND MAIN, NORTHWEST CORNER, 1882 . . . from F.T. Gilbert's book, "Historic Sketches."

Nov. 28 — City reincorporation necessitated as 1880 census showed Walla Walla eligible for second class standing. Under reincorporation, city was divided into four wards and eight election precincts.

1884

Jan. 14 — John Elfers hanged in last execution at county jail.

April 12 — Semi-weekly mail established between Walla Walla and Waitsburg.

June 20 — Telephone exchange opened with 16 subscribers.

Aug. 30 — First horse-drawn street car line constructed from Second and Main to end of Park Street. On the same day, the first combine thresher-header used at the Robert Kennedy farm.

1885

Dec. 1 — Army Signal Service established weather station.

Dr. N. G. Blalock began his fruit ranch here that year.

1886

Jan. 11 — City of Milton, Ore., incorporated.

Jan. 22 — Territorial legislature approved location of penitentiary near Walla Walla.

1887

Jan. 21 — Walla Walla Board of Trade acted to open prison which had been built but not occupied for lack of funds. May 11, 97 convicts from Seatco (now Bucoda, Wash.) arrived to occupy the prison.

Jan. 26 — Direct telegraphic communication with Pendleton opened.

March 4 — Fire on Main Street burned from Third to Fourth streets resulting in \$147,000 damage.

July 9 — County census listed 8,912 residents. In 1950, county had 40,135.

Nov. 1 — Dixie branch of Baker railroad turned over to O.R. & N.

1888

Feb. 6 — YMCA incorporated.

Feb. 28 — Telephone line extended to Milton, Athena, Adams and Pendleton.

March 22 — George W. Hunt announced plans for a second railroad linking Walla Walla and Wallula. This line completed Dec. 24, 1888 and extended to Dayton Nov. 12, 1889.

June 14 — First steam laundry opened.

June 19 — City council granted C. E. Burrows and Associates a franchise to establish and maintain an electric power plant.

1889

Jan. 2 — Post office started free delivery service.

Feb. 22 — President Harrison signed enabling act which admitted Washington to the union, effective Nov. 11.

April 9 — Miles C. Moore, Walla Walla, appointed governor of Washington Territory (until first state election in November.) The territorial governor's home still stands on Bryant avenue.

June 20 — Citizens voted to purchase water system from Walla Walla Water Co., paying \$250,000. Later election (Oct. 28) validated purchase price.

Oct. 1 — State constitution, adopted by 50-day Olympia convention, was ratified by residents.

Nov. 11 — Washington attained statehood; E. P. Ferry named first state governor in general election.

1890

Jan. 10 — "New Walla Walla" incorporated. Later became Freewater, Ore., which was consolidated with Milton as Milton-Freewater Nov. 14, 1950.)

1892

July 23 — Stine House (early hotel) burned.

Aug. 4 — Washington and Columbia River Railroad

incorporated.

Dec. 7 — Walla Walla College (Seventh-day Adventist Church-sponsored school), in College Place, opened its doors.

1894

Aug. 10 — Elks Lodge No. 287 organized.

Sept. 18 — Dr. S. B. L. Penrose elected president of Whitman College.

1896

April 13 — City started paid fire department.

Sept. 4 — Walla Walla chosen as site for IOOF home. Six acres of land and \$3,000 donated. Home opened in December, 1897, and continues in operation at 534 Boyer Avenue.

1900

May 24 — Henry W. Lawton post, United Spanish-American War veterans, incorporated.

1901

Jan. 7 — First Church of Christ Scientist, incorporated.

Jan. 15 — City council set aside 40-acre tract on East Alder for city park (now Pioneer Park).

1903

May 3 — Knights of Columbus organized here with 40 members.

May 11 — Artesian well struck at Blalock Fruit Farm at depth of 550 feet. Another well drilled in 1907, flow hit at 526 feet.

1904

Jan. 4 — Walla Walla Meat and Cold Storage Co. began operation.

March 1 — T. C. Elliott offered city site for Carnegie Library.

May 6 — First execution at State Penitentiary.

July 27 — Initial street paving contract was let covering Main and Alder streets from Sixth to Colville.

1905

Sept. 21 — Keylor Grand Theater was opened with "The Girl from Kay's."

1906

A "50,000 Club" was organized and "What Walla Walla Wants is YOU" became the slogan for the next few years.

March 18 — Walla Walla Valley Railway Co. began work on electric city street car system. August 1, first street cars arrived and service began Dec. 24.

September — Theatorium (first movie house) opened. A. W. Eiler an early owner but not the first. It was located at 19 East Main.

1907

Feb. 12 — Presbyterians and Cumberland Presbyterians officially united.

April 16 — Walla Walla Valley Railway Co. began interurban service to Milton, Umapine and Baker-Langdon.

June 12 — Northern Pacific Railway took over the Washington and Columbia River Railroad line.

June 18 — Dam completed at Kooskooskie on Mill Creek, headworks of water system. Water turned on July 9.

Sept. 4 — First cannery opened at 11th and West Rose streets, processing tomatoes and peaches.

Dec. 5 — YMCA building formally opened.

Dec. 30 — Fire alarm system installed.

1908

Jan. 12 — First meeting of boys at new YMCA.

March 11 — Women's Park Club organized.

September 6 — Formal opening of city park (Pioneer Park).

1909

May 25 — City let contract for motor fire equipment. First truck put into service Dec. 14.

July 20 — City council forbade further construction of wooden

sidewalks.

1910

Jan. 17 — Company K, National Guard, discussed. Paul Weyrauch to be captain.

Feb. 1 — John G. Kelly bought Walla Walla Bulletin. A. M. Jensen Co. (now The Bon) started business.

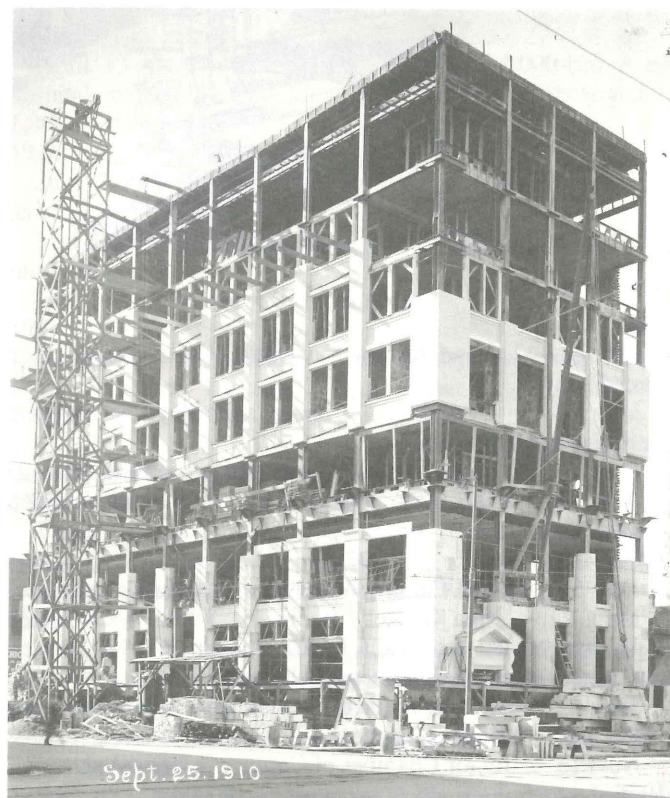
Feb. 17 — Company K holds first drill. Mustered in February 25.

April 8 — Western Tri-State Baseball League organized at Pendleton. Jack O'Brien manager of Walla Walla team.

June 10 — Eighth Blalock Fruit Co. farm artesian well sent water 112 feet in air from an 8-inch pipe. Claimed at the time to be largest flowing artesian well in the world.

June 9 — Citizens adopted commission form of government which went into effect September 11 with A. J. Gillis as mayor, George Struthers as commissioner of streets and A. K. Dice as commissioner of finance.

No. 13 — Grand Hotel opened by Mullemer, Halle & Rick in building owned by J. E. Ransom at First and Alder. It had been finished Oct. 1, 1906, as an office building but later was remodeled into a hotel. (Also see 1922).



WALLA WALLA'S FIRST SKYSCRAPER . . . Baker Building under construction, 1910 (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

1912

May 28 — Hitching racks ordered removed from Main Street by city commission. Many businessmen voiced objection to the action.

1913

June 12 — New state law required fishing licenses.

Sept. 25 — Frontier Days "Wild West" program at fairgrounds...repeated in 1914 and 1915.

Nov. 14 — Northwest Christian Home dedicated here.

1915

Jan. 27 — Fire destroyed St. Mary's Hospital (built in 1882) and necessitated new \$200,000 building, completed in 1916. St. Mary's used Fort Walla Walla buildings (then abandoned)

while its new building was being erected.

March 25 — Walla Walla Golf Club organized (later to become Walla Walla Country Club.)

1916

June 19 — Company K, National Guard, entrained for Mexican border. Returned Oct. 9, 1916.

Sept. 19 — Patients transferred from Fort Walla Walla to new St. Mary's Hospital building.

Oct. 6 — YWCA organized.

1917

March 26 — Company K mobilized. Sent to American Lake March 30. January 8, 1918, word came Company K had arrived in France.

June 5 — Draft registration began; 2,218 registered by draft board in county.

July 19 — Recruiting started for 146th Field Artillery, Col. Paul H. Weyrauch, commanding officer, equipped and trained at Fort Walla Walla.

Oct. 9 — 146th Field Artillery left. Word of arrival in France received Jan. 10, 1918. Returned June 26, 1919.

1918

Feb. 9 — Growers approved plans to grow sugar beets in region.

1919

Jan. 30 — Junior ROTC at Wa-Hi approved in Washington DC.

Feb. 15 — First National Bank purchased building at Second and Alder Streets. (Now -1988- Seattle-First National Bank and located at Third and Main. Walla Walla First Federal Savings Bank occupies Second and Alder building).

March 9 — Auto-stage service inaugurated between Walla Walla and Pasco.

June 5 — YWCA moved into South Third Avenue building which it occupied until 1952.

Aug. 12 — American Legion post organized.

Aug. 28 — Rotary Club organized, charter meeting Jan. 17, 1920.

1920

Jan. 7 — Battery A organized; later became Company F, Washington National Guard.

July 7 — Paving work on Dixie highway started.

1921

March 4 — President signed bill authorizing establishment of Walla Walla Veterans Hospital.

April 25 — Disabled American Veterans organized.

Dec. 6 — Contract for \$123,880 awarded Omaha firm for reconstruction of existing buildings and construction of new ones at Veterans Hospital.

1922

Feb. 10 — Grand Hotel Company, Eugene Tausick president, purchased Ransom Building at First and Alder.

May 6 — Veterans Hospital received first patients; formal dedication held June 4.

May 29 — Kiwanis Club chartered.

1923

March 3 — Veterans of Foreign Wars organized.

April 10 — Blue Mountain Council of Boy Scouts organized.

May 30 — The Walla Walla Dairymen's Association started.

June 6 — First performance of pioneer pageant, "How the West was Won." (Repeated in 1924).

1924

Nov. 5 — Colonial Building Co., Spokane, awarded \$81,174 contract for General Hospital building. Funds had been raised by public subscription.



CIRCA 1925 . . . DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA

1926

Jan. 1 — Electric street car system discontinued, supplanted by motorized buses.

Jan. 26 — Wireworm (control) work started with Toppenish as headquarters. Station transferred here, opened May 11, 1928.

1927

May 17 — Plans for new No. 2 fire station at Alder and Park approved by city commission.

Oct. 31 — Skyline road completed from Dayton to Tollgate.

Dec. — "Talkies" installed at Liberty Theater, making it the third such installation in the Northwest.

1928

Sept. 1 — Marcus Whitman Hotel opened . . . 174 rooms.

1929

May 17 — Infirmary building at Veterans Hospital completed.

Jan. 18 — Pacific Power & Light Co. sold gas business to Northwest Cities Gas Co.

April 5 — Lions Club chartered.

June 10 — Altrusa Club chartered.

1931

Jan. 20 — Chamber of Commerce canning committee voted plans to finance cannery here.

March 31 — Valley's worst flood began. Overflow in city sent water through business district; city water system put out of commission, gas service damaged. One person drowned.

June 1 — Portland Airways began daily Walla Walla to Portland air service.

June 7 — Barracks at Fort Walla Walla remodeled for Veterans Hospital purposes.

Nov. 3 — Seventh-day Adventists took over operation of General Hospital.

1932

April 28 — Walla Walla Cannery (experimental) started.

1933

Feb. 6 — Ground broken for Walla Walla Cannery. Run started May 1.

March 17 — Rudolph A. Clemen announced as president-elect of Whitman College.

May 13 — Daylight saving time tried, dropped June 23.

Nov. 24 — Giant NRA (National Recovery Administration) parade held.

1934

Feb. 6 — Inland Empire Waterways Association organized.

May 19 — John G. Kelly purchased Walla Walla Union. Kelly had bought the Walla Walla Bulletin in 1910, but the two papers were published separately until 1938.

June — Pacific Supply (farm) Cooperative began operations.

Oct. 28 — Construction started on Bonneville Dam.

Nov. 13 — Junior Chamber of Commerce organized.

1935

Feb. 15 — Walla Walla Tuberculosis Sanitarium turned over to county by Washington Emergency Relief Administration as completed.

May 1 — Three percent state sales tax went into effect. Chamber of Commerce forced to issue emergency paper tokens, as supply of state-minted aluminum tokens inadequate.

June 7 — Libby, McNeill & Libby opened canning plant.

1936

May 29 — New Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. building at First and Alder put in use.

Aug. 13 — Whitman Centennial celebration opened.

Oct. 25 — Walla Walla-Tollgate-Elgin highway opened to traffic.

1937

Jan. 12 — Whitman Mission site purchased for national monument with money raised in 1936 celebration.

In August, 1939, the U.S. Government accepted the mission land for a national monument.

Dec. 4 — United Air Lines established mail and passenger service between Walla Walla, Portland and Spokane. Local airport had been developed at a cost of \$106,000, largely provided by municipal bond issue.

1938

Jan. 16 — Dr. Walter A. Bratton elected president of Whitman College.

1940

May 31 — Stadium renamed Borleske Field to honor R. V. Borleske, long-time Whitman College athletics coach.

1941

April 16 — Continental Can Co. (can fabrication plant) began operations.

Dec. 10 — Announcement made in Washington, D. C. that \$7,500,000 bomber air base would be built in Walla Walla. Delegation of two from here had been in Washington on contacts earlier in the fall. About 8,000 officers and men were trained at the field during World War II.

December — Mill Creek Dam completed to prevent flooding in Walla Walla.

1942

April 13 — City selected as location of 1,000-bed Army hospital, named McCaw General. Hospital later enlarged to 1,800-bed capacity.

1946

June 1 — Birds Eye Division, General Foods Corp., opened its quick-freezing plant.

Mid-July — Canned pea pack in area 6,900,000 cases, largest production in history.

Oct. 26 — Optimist Club chartered.

1947

March 24 — Columbia Service Co. announced plans for first drive-in theater. Purchased Dec. 22 that year by Midstate Amusement Corp.

March 31 — World War II draft board terminated operations. Board had inducted 1,816 men from county.

1948

Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, established and first people transferred here from Portland office, setting up offices in former hospital at WWII air base.

1949

April 9 — Veterans Memorial Park golf course opened for first full season of play. In June, Veterans Memorial Park pool opened.

Aug. 24 — Contractors began work on McNary Dam project on Columbia River.

Sept. 10 — Snake River bridge on Walla Walla-Pasco highway destroyed by fire.

1950

April 25 — Mail deliveries cut to one daily in residential areas and from four to three deliveries in business district.

May 22 — First water poured into Burbank irrigation project. The completed mile-long canal to bring water to 1,300 acres. Included in the project are 18 full-time farm units and 56 part-time units.

July 19 — First draft call of Korean War was received.

1951

Jan. 1 — A. L. "Bert" Watts named Walla Walla Police Chief, succeeding Ed Kanz, chief the past two years.

Jan. 8 — County assumed third class standing.

Jan. 19 — Inland Airways made final flight on Seattle-Walla Walla run after four years of operation. Discontinued due to lack of patronage.

March 23 — Contract signed for new \$200,000 Masonic Temple.

Sept. 19 — City population set at 24,102 in 1950 census count.

1952

Jan. 17 — New Snake River bridge on Walla Walla-Pasco highway opened.

Feb. 28 — Post office announced plans for two truck delivery routes here, supplanting train deliveries of mail.

May 25 — Walla Walla and Umatilla counties listed among nation's top 200 in gross farm earnings.

May 31 — Open house held at new YWCA at First and Birch.

June 8 — Work started on minimum-security building at Washington State Penitentiary.

June 13 — City census surpassed 25,000 mark for first time; hit 25,100 as of April 1 (State Census Board).

July 17 — First houses moved to New Wallula townsite. (Original town relocated to make way for back waters of McNary Dam).

July 17 — West Coast and Empire Airlines announced merger, effective Aug. 1, under name of West Coast-Empire Airlines.

Aug. 7 — City prepared to issue million dollar bond issue to finance sewer and water additions and improvements.

Nov. 4 — Returns from record sugar beet acreage (4,700 acres) neared \$1.5 million.

Dec. 17 — Ordinance providing trash and garbage collection charges for residential area went on books.

1953

Feb. 19 — Walla Walla College announced million dollar building program to be completed in 1957.

May 12 — Plans of Simplot Company to build fertilizer plant announced.

May 13 — Army Engineers announced plans to open Mill Creek flood control project as recreational area.

June 19 — Site on Pike's Peak chosen for community television antenna.

Sept. 9 — Inmate-set fire destroyed license plate plant at penitentiary...accompanied by minor rioting.

1954

May 26 — Use of new \$1.5 million Minimum Security building at state penitentiary begins.

1955

April 20 — First National Bank of Waitsburg sold to National Bank of Commerce.

Sept. 6 — Garrison Junior High School opens.

Sept. 10 — Union Pacific passenger train service to Portland makes last run.

July 5 — State penitentiary inmates riot, seize control of main section, with assistant warden and six other officials hostage.

June 6 — Indians arrive for start of Centennial observance of 1855 Stevens Treaty in Walla Walla.

1956

Oct. 26 — Vice President and Mrs. Richard Nixon visit here.

Aug. 14 — Walla Walla Canning Co. has its first test run on corn.

1957

March 21 — Mrs. George (Anna) Martin of Walla Walla named Washington State "Mother of the Year."

1958

Nov. 13 — Plans announced for \$258,000 grain terminal on Port of Walla Walla land at Burbank.

1959

July 1 — Chester Maxey resigns as president of Whitman College. Alfred McVay resigns as Chamber of Commerce

manager after 25 years.

Aug. 31 — De Sales High School opens doors.

June 29 — Work starts on \$500,000 "Big Y" shopping center.

Nov. 3 — Walla Walla voters scrap commission form of government and adopt council-manager system.

1960

April 5 — Plaza Way shopping center opens.

Sept. 13 — First council under city manager type of government elected: Mabel Groseclose, F. B. Hanson, Lawrence E. Cousins, Chester C. Maxey, Harold Jackson, Clarence Anderson and H. R. Holm.

June 5 — More than 500 people at Lyons Ferry for observance of the Centennial of the ferry.

Oct. 31 — Leland F. Kraft of Wichita, Kas., appointed Walla Walla's first city manager.

Walla Walla County population is 42,195.

1961

Jan. 18. — Largest building permit ever issued in the county goes to Boise Cascade Corp. for \$6.5 million expansion of its Wallula mill.

May 16 — Frank LeRoux of Walla Walla appointed general sales manager for U.S. Commodity Credit Corp., export sales.

July 30 — All night blaze destroys Dayton Cold Storage warehouse in \$300,000 loss.

Aug. 13 — New post office dedicated at College Place.

Aug. 7 — Alma Gray, Walla Walla photographer, named first woman president of American Society of Photographers at New York convention.

Nov. 17 — Walla Walla National Bank purchase by Old National Bank gets federal approval.

1962

April 28 — Fire destroys most of Walla Walla Grain Growers' plant and old Walla Walla Meat and Cold Storage plant.

Aug. 20 — Walla Walla delegation on hand for dedication of Lolo Pass Highway, short cut to Missoula and points East.

Feb. 1 — "Park & Shop" parking operation inaugurated.

June 4 — Razing of Grand Hotel starts.

New Wa-Hi campus built on Abbott Road

1963

Chamber of Commerce wins top national rating (cities of 10,000 to 25,000) for its achievement program.

Mar. 22 — \$400,000 contract let for new McLoughlin Union High School gymnasium and four classrooms.

Oct. 29 — Joe Parmelee, high school junior, one of three Northwest winners in National Science Congress.

Jan. 30 — Early morning fire destroys Weinhard Building in Dayton.

March 15 — Oral polio vaccine administered to thousands at schools in start of three-day treatment.

1964

Oct. 20 — Whitman College buys Pacific Cooperative Supply building at Boyer and Marcus streets for student union building.

March 29 — Donald Sherwood awarded "Who's Who in America" citation for his educational philanthropies.

April 5 — New Walla Walla High School dedicated. University of Washington president, Charles Odegaard was speaker.

July 29 — Fire destroys Sigman Supermarket, loss of \$250,000. City library now on site.

July 20 — Work starts on new First Federal Savings & Loan building (First and Alder) and also on "The Trees" apartment project on Catherine Street.

March 13 — Mayor H. R. Holm throws switch activating new business district street lighting system.

June 2 — First commencement in new Wa-Hi, 387 diplomas

given.

1965

May 15 — Park on Mill Creek dedicated in honor of Capt. Albert Harold Rooks, Walla Walla native and World War II U.S. Navy officer.

July 9 — Birds Eye Division of General Foods (now D&K Frozen Foods Inc.) starts green pea harvesting in Columbia County, using self-propelled and towed combines.

1966

Oct. 25 — Jim Russell, golfing professional at Walla Walla Country Club, chosen Northwest "Pro Golfer of the year."

May 3 — Mojonier greenhouses purchased by Hamada Bros. of Walla Walla.

June 28 — Peter Kiewit Sons apparent low bidder on Lyons Ferry bridge at \$741,040.

Sun-Glo Producers harvested the first irrigated potato crop, pumping water from the Snake River in western Walla Walla County.

1967

Sept. 5 — First elementary school library in Walla Walla opened at Edison School.

Oct. 22 — Worst dust storm in memory of local residents closes some highways. Some wheat lands covered by sand drifts. Waitsburg-Burbank highway closed nearly three days.

May 1 — Washington State Legislature passes bill including \$250,000 for start of Walla Walla Community College.

May 11 — Daum Development Corp., Boise, completed purchase of 60 acres on Myra Road for proposed shopping center.

June 26 — Herbert G. West, longtime executive vice president of Inland Empire Waterways Association and champion of river development here, announces retirement.

Harper Joy Theater on Whitman College campus, dedicated to honor alumnus who had long contributed to the theater and college.

1968

Jan. 24 — Charles Luce, former Walla Walla attorney and head of Bonneville Power Administration, now chairman and chief executive officer, Consolidated Edison Co., New York, named Columbia University trustee.

Cordiner Hall opens on Whitman College campus to honor Ralph Cordiner, Whitman grad and former chief executive officer, General Electric.

1969

Oct. 9 — Lillie Rice Activity Center opens.

Oct. 20 — Sherwood Center, new physical education plant at Whitman College, dedicated.

Aug. 24 — Marcus Whitman Homes holds open house.

Five years after its dedication, the Whitman Mission National Historic Site visitor center attracted over 100,000 visitors in 1969.

1970

May — Johnny Dennis, Wa-Hi teacher, named "National Teacher of the Year."

May 18 — Moving of books into new city library started.

June 14 — New Walla Walla public library dedicated.

Nov. 14 — Ground broken for Olin Building at Whitman College.

Dec. 29 — Burlington Northern and Walla Walla Valley Railway merge offices.

Walla Walla County population is 42,176.

1971

Oct. 24 — 12 persons killed, 11 at the scene, in head-on collision on U.S. Highway 12, six miles east of Wallula Junction. Highest single death toll on a Washington highway.

April 4 — Universal Land Co. planted 500 acres of grapes to launch first major vineyards in Walla Walla County.

Aug. 25 — City of Walla Walla annexes area south of Walla Walla, including Plaza Way Shopping Center.

Nov. 28 — Sale of Logan Chevrolet Co., longtime dealer here, to Biff Brotherton announced.

Jan. 11 — Bruce Cowan named Walla Walla County assessor to fill unexpired term of Lloyd Harkins who died after a heart attack.

1972

Jan 2 — College Place volunteer fire department marks its 25th anniversary.

Jan. 11 — Gov. Dan Evans appointed three to the State Human Affairs Advisory Council: Tom Baker, Waitsburg; Paul Dasenko, College Place and James Erwin, Walla Walla.

1973

Wheat went to more than \$5 a bushel although it was one of the poorest county average yields at 48 bushels.

Capital improvements by the City of Walla Walla totaled \$2.6 million. Biggest outlay was for \$1.7 million for industrial waste spray irrigation farm west of the penitentiary, one of the biggest in the U.S.

The 1973 Southeastern Washington Fair biggest ever. A new fair manager, Frank O'Leary, was named, succeeding Barney Tomlinson.

Jan. 11 — Walla Walla Country club and other property west of Plaza Way annexed by City of Walla Walla.

Jan. 11 — Rep. Jeannette Hayner sworn in for her "freshman" year as Republican legislator from Walla Walla.

Jan. 25 — Anna Seeber Green, oldest Walla Walla native at the time, dies at 110.

April 1 — Dorothy Foreman dorm for girls dedicated at Walla Walla College.

Oct. 17 — \$13 million, 6.5 mile freeway bypass opened.

Walla Walla Padres champions of '73 of Northwest Baseball League.

1974

April 14 — Whitman College dedicates \$2 million Elbridge Stuart Memorial wing to Penrose Memorial Library.

Oct. 10 — Kmart, largest single store in Walla Walla, opens in Eastgate district.

Walla Walla Elks lodge named "most honored" individual lodge in U.S. at national convention.

June — New campus for Walla Walla Community College opened on Tausick Way.

Dr. Walter Brattain named to Inventors' Hall of Fame. In 1957 he had shared with two others in the invention of the transistor.

Roy "Babe" Henderson retires after 17 years as head pro at Veterans Memorial Golf Course.

1975

January — Robert A. Skotheim named 10th president of Whitman College.

1976

Fort Walla Walla Park outdoor amphitheater built at cost of \$500,000. Pageant, "Trails West," by Bill Gulick, presented during the summer.

New Touchet School building erected at a cost of \$2.3 million. New \$13 million, 142-bed St. Mary Hospital opens.

1977

"Trails West" closes at end of second year at outdoor amphitheater.

Easter Sunday disturbance in the prison chapel spreads to become record 45-day long "lock-down" at the penitentiary.

Wheat crop down 50 percent from 1976 in Walla Walla, Columbia and Umatilla counties.

Yancy Reser won election as superior court judge, replacing

John C. Tuttle, who retired in August.

Douglas Vinzant named to replace B.J. Rhay as superintendent of Washington State Penitentiary. Rhay had been warden 20 years.

City Manager Larry Smith resigns after 11 years in the post.

New Walla Walla General Hospital opens on South Second Avenue. The \$7.2 million project included a 72-bed hospital, a family practice clinic and a medical plaza.

Anne Haley, Fort Vancouver librarian, named Walla Walla City Library Director.

1979

New Berney Elementary School opens, replacing structure built in 1904.

1980

Walla Walla County population is 47,435.

Jan. 1 — Tom Anderson of Wenatchee named new Walla Walla fire chief, filling post vacant four years and is first chief at new 12th Avenue fire station which opened 3½ years before.

Mar. 19 — College Place and Walla Walla voters approve tax plan to fund city transit by nearly 2 to 1 margin.

April 11 — Dennis Ray named new superintendent of School District 140, succeeding Franklin "Pete" Hanson, who had been superintendent the past 10 years.

May 6 — Assistant Police Chief Don Wood retires after 35 years on Walla Walla Police force.

Aug. 25 — Seattle-First National Bank opens in new location at Third and Main.

Nov. 21 — City Manager Michael Gleason resigns to take similar post in Eugene, Ore.

Dec. 1 — Mayor Ron Sullivan resigns to accept post of manager of Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce. He had been mayor nearly a year and on city council five years.

1981

June 6 — Edwin R. Ivey appointed city manager, succeeding Micheal Gleason. Robert Spaulding had been interim manager six months.

July — New prison warden, Bob Kastma, assumes post.

Wheat production for Walla Walla County up 20 percent over 1980 with crop of 18 million bushels. While average was good, 67.5 bushels per acre, the price was less than \$4 a bushel.

1982

Mar. 25 — Norbert "Swede" Clark, assistant chief and acting chief past five years, retires. He was a fire fighter 30 years.

June 10 — Bigfoot (Sasquatch) reported seen on boundary of Mill Creek Watershed by U. S. Forest Service patrol rider, Paul Freeman.

July 21 — Fire at Van Petten Lumber Co. causes \$250,000 damage.

Dec. 17 — Washington's first \$1 million dollar lottery winner was a Walla Walla nurse, Jana Dee Page.

City council approved application of Kamiakin Company to develop a shopping mall at Rose and Myra streets.

Blue Ridge Elementary School opens in August on VA grounds, off Wainwright Drive, replacing Washington and Jefferson schools.

Deputy Sheriff Kenneth "Buz" Klundt elected sheriff over incumbent, Ron Kespohl.

1983

Feb. 23 — Walla Walla Lioness Club receives \$30,000 from Clifford Braden estate and City Council okays plan for new aviary at Pioneer Park.

Mar. 23 — Walla Walla School District okays offer to buy Jefferson School by Sterling Recreation Organization Co., to raze school and build multi cineman in annex.

July 31 — A. L. "Bert" Watts retires as Walla Walla Police

Chief. He had first joined the police force July 31, 1942.

Aug. 5 — Capt. Chuck Fulton named police chief by City Manager Ed Ivey. Fulton, 36, is a Walla Walla native who joined police force in 1946 as patrolman.

Aug. 16 — Walla Walla Fire Department removing last of the old fire box alarms . . . 911 system replaces them.

1984

Jan. 4 — Bill Fleenor elected mayor by council by vote of 4-3. At 32, he is youngest mayor in recent memory. He replaces Harry Drake who did not seek re-election.

New vocational education building opens on Wa-Hi campus on Abbott Road.

1985

Year marks 160th anniversary of Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805 reaching Walla Walla County. The return to St. Louis in spring of 1806 traversed the county, largely following the Touchet River.

Feb. 27 — Ken Haak, two-time Central Washington PGA champ, named head golf pro at Veterans Memorial Park Golf Course. He succeeds Ron Coleman.

Nov. 11 — H. Jack Bergman, a 1948 grad of Walla Walla College, returns as the 17th president of the college, succeeding N. Clifford Sorensen, president since 1976.

November — The crime prevention program of the Walla Walla Police Department is honored by the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners as one of the top five cities under 50,000 in the United States, it is reported by Police Chief

Chuck Fulton.

Dec. 3 — Nanc Reznicek is named manager of the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce. The first woman to hold this post, she succeeds Franklin "Pete" Hanson. Reznicek had been assistant manager for the past two years.

1986

Walla Walla natives Wes and Sharon Colley served as co-chairmen ("Marcus and Narcissa") of the year-long community observance of the Sesquicentennial Year of the coming of the Whitmans to this area to establish their mission at Waiilatpu in 1836.

1987

Walla Walla School District marked its 125th year of service to the area.

April 22 — Harry Kinzer appointed city manager, succeeding Ed Ivey, city manager since 1981. Kinzer had been serving as interim manager for two months.

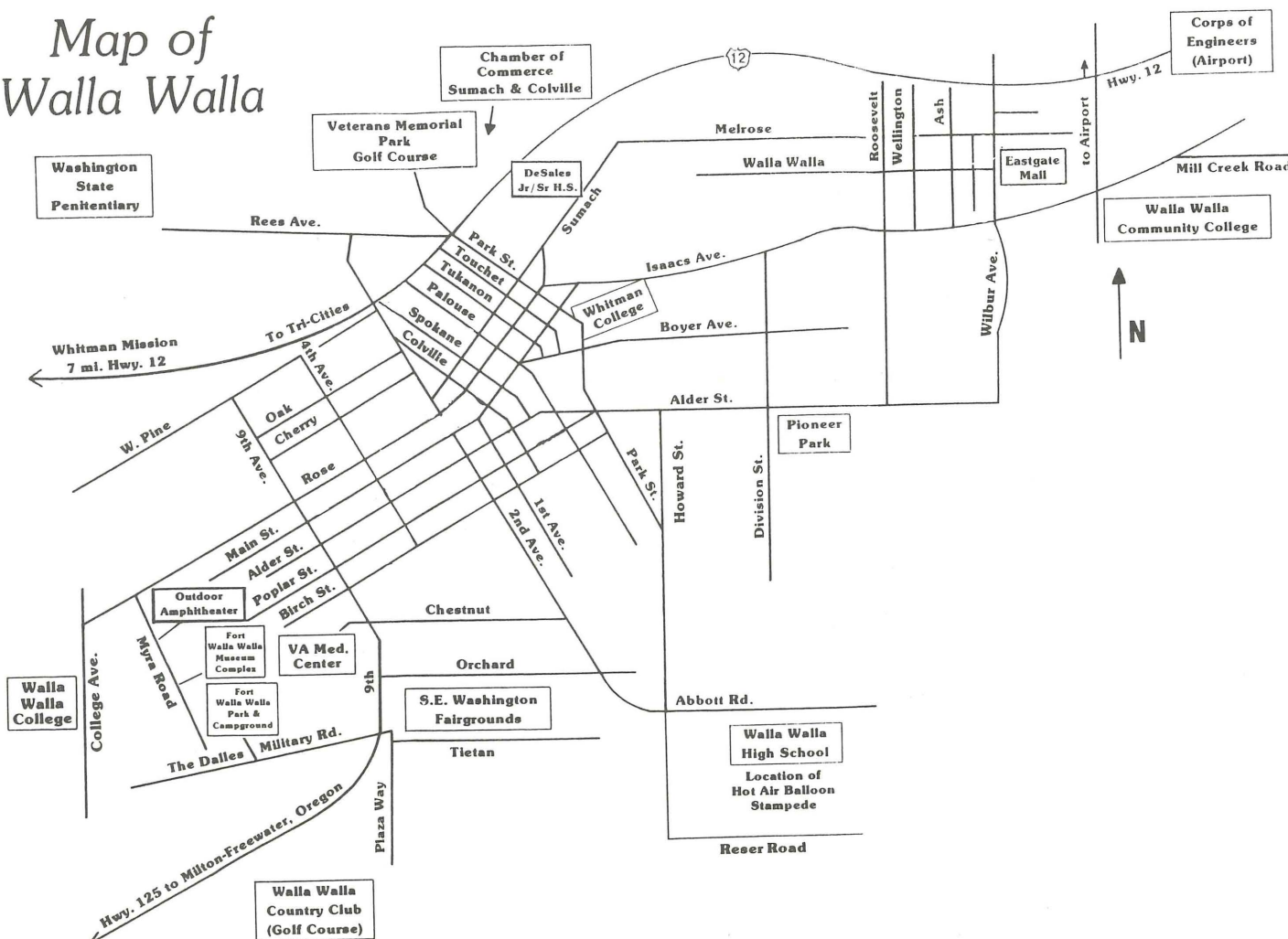
1988

Robert A. Skotheim resigned as president of Whitman College to accept California post. Edward Foster named acting president while search proceeds for Skotheim successor.

Start made in first week of August on shopping center (Blue Mountain Mall) at Rose Street and Myra Road. Developers are Robacor Associates and White Leisure Development Co.

New 4-laned Highway completed from Oregon-Washington Stateline to The Dalles Military Road and South Ninth Avenue.

Map of Walla Walla



WHITMAN COLLEGE: MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE



WHITMAN COLLEGE MEMORIAL BUILDING . . . Landmark of the College—sketch by Ernest R. Norling, Class of 1915. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

(The following is provided courtesy of Lenel Smith, news service officer, Whitman College office of communications.)

Whitman College, founded by the Reverend Cushing Eells in memory of his friend and fellow missionary Marcus Whitman, was chartered by the Territorial Legislature of Washington in 1859. Originally known as the Whitman Seminary, the school, through Eells' efforts, sought to bring Christian religion and education to the western wilderness in the Whitmans' name.

The first seminary session of 13 students was held in a log structure at the Wailatpu mission site. However, this site proved to be too far from the population center of the area, and in 1866, on a four-acre Walla Walla site donated by pioneer physician Dorsey Baker, the two-story frame building that was to house the seminary was erected. This building, which cost \$4,842.42, stood on the site where the college's 1910 Hall of Music was constructed.

Although the Whitman Seminary originally served primarily as a private elementary school with a secondary course of study available to those few who qualified, the trustees soon realized that the school would have to advance to survive. In 1882 the first collegiate classes began, and in 1883 the legislature approved an amendment to the school's charter that changed the seminary to a four-year collegiate institution. (The college maintained its preparatory department until 1912.)

The college, which opened with a faculty of three and a student body of 60, was led by Whitman's first president, Alexander J. Anderson, until he retired in 1891 because of poor health. The financial panic of 1892-93 came close to closing the doors of the new college, but in 1894 Stephen Beasley Linnard Penrose,

a young Congregational minister from Dayton, Wash., who was a graduate of Williams College and Yale Divinity School, took the helm.

Penrose served for 40 years as Whitman's president, and during his time drew many notable teachers to the faculty, which he recruited from liberal arts colleges in New England and the Middle West. It is Penrose who is credited with transforming Whitman College into a college of national and international repute. In 1913, during his tenure, Whitman became the first college or university in the United States to make comprehensive examinations in the major field of study a graduation requirement.

One of only two purely liberal arts and sciences institutions in the Northwest, Whitman has attracted faculty and students from all areas of the United States and around the world. In addition, the college can count as alumni a Nobel prize winner in physics, a United States Supreme Court justice, a number of well-known academic figures, artists and entertainers, presidents of major corporations, leaders in government and law, and many active private citizens who contribute daily to their communities.

Whitman has by choice remained a small private college. But much expansion in the 1980s was made possible through the efforts of the college's 10th president, Robert Allen Skotheim. A career historian and an expert in American intellectual history, Skotheim took office in January, 1975, and in his first years at the college launched Whitman on a series of comprehensive self-studies that raised the level of the college's aspirations and resulted in a new emphasis on academic quality.

Some of the growth attained during Skotheim's leadership include development of a general studies program; addition of

faculty and expansion of offerings in Chinese, Japanese and other Asian studies; introduction of a major in geology; expansion of the faculty; construction of major additions to the physical plant; and addition of a microcomputer center.

To finance essential changes . . . including professionalizing the faculty and revitalizing the curriculum, in October, 1980, Whitman launched an historic \$50 million fund-raising campaign. The success of the "Campaign for Whitman," completed in the fall of 1987, made it possible for the college to expand at a

time when other colleges were tightening their belts.

By 1988, Whitman College had total endowment value in excess of \$110 million, the largest endowment among private colleges and universities in the Northwest, a physical plant worth \$42 million, and a larger faculty and class offering than at any time in the college's history. Enrollment for the 1987-88 school year was about 1,200, and the college was able to award more than \$5 million in financial aid.

WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE . . . THEN AND NOW



WALLA WALLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(The following material has been provided courtesy of Jean Weber, journalism instructor, Walla Walla Community College.)

Walla Walla Community College, a public co-educational two-year college, was founded in 1967 after several years of work and planning by many citizens of the area.

In 1947 an adult education program was initiated in the Walla Walla public school system. This program expanded until 1959, when Walla Walla was authorized to open an area vocational-technical school. As this program grew, the existing facilities became inadequate. At the same time, a move to construct a new Walla Walla High School was gaining momentum.

By 1963, a Community College Advisory Committee representative of Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties had been formed. This committee began working to convince the state legislature that the area needed a community college. At this time most of the community college allocations were being made for the western side of Washington.

The action to build a new Walla Walla High School launched community-wide controversy, which was finally resolved when District 140 school board members were able to build a new school on the south side of Walla Walla. This move left the old high school buildings vacant at 340 S. Park St.

A presentation by Walla Walla School District 140 to the Washington State Legislature to use the old buildings for a community college resulted in legislative action in 1965 which called for establishing a college on that site "no sooner than September 1, 1967." By the spring of 1967, the Legislature established Washington Community College District 20 to provide for the educational needs of the four-county area.

The doors of Walla Walla Community College opened on September 19, 1967, under the leadership of its first president, Dr. Eldon Dietrich. The main campus consisted of three buildings: the main classroom and office building, the gymnasium and the fine arts building. A leased building in downtown Walla Walla held the auto mechanics, auto rebuilding and refinishing, and welding departments with airport facilities housing the nursing department.

During that first year, the college served 850 students in about 40 programs. Almost immediately it became apparent that the Park Street facilities would soon be outgrown, and a search for a site for a new campus began.

The campus, at 500 Tausick Way, now consists of 20 learning and activity centers within 14 buildings, a domed athletic facility and a 36,000-volume library.

The district's four-county area, which covers 150 miles in

width and extends from the Snake River to the Oregon border, contains a population of approximately 71,400 persons. To meet the needs of this large district, Walla Walla Community College has expanded its outreach.

Early in the 1970s the college began offering classes in the Clarkston area through the local high school. By 1972, the Whittier Building had been leased to house the growing number of classes and students. These facilities became inadequate for the number of students served, and on October 1, 1987, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for a new Clarkston Center at 15th and Bridge streets. The center, which contains classrooms and laboratory spaces, a library, an auditorium-lecture hall with a mezzanine, and a large multi-purpose room was dedicated September 21, 1988.

Increasing community demands for seminars and computer training resulted in selection of a centrally located off-campus site close to the greatest concentration of working adult students. The Downtown Center, 13½ East Main Street, opened in Walla Walla in the spring of 1987. This center, which houses a computer lab, and conference and seminar rooms, offers a variety of day and evening classes for the business community and non-traditional students. In 1967 classes offered for inmates at Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla had an enrollment of 48 students. Today, these classes serve some 800.

The Continuing Education Department of the college provides many classes for persons of all ages. Through this department it is possible to earn an Associate of Arts degree or Associate Degree in Applied Arts and Science in Business at evening classes.

Continuing Ed classes are provided senior citizens on campus and at Jefferson Park in a wide variety of subjects.

For the business person, there are computer classes, seminars, workshops and requested courses offered during days and evenings at the Downtown Center.

The Continued Health Education program (offered under Continuing Ed) provides classes for health professionals who wish to upgrade their skills.

Community Education is another part of Continuing Ed, a program which provides a variety of classes, many of which are offered at the Downtown Center.

The college's Continuing Education Department welcomes requests for classes.

The college assumed the education program for inmates of the penitentiary (referred to as North Campus) when the college opened in 1967. Previously, the prison program had been in charge of Walla Walla School Dist. 140.

Programs are available for inmates in five categories of the prison. These programs include:

Automotive repair/refinishing, barbering, custodial services, drafting, engineering technology, upholstery, welding, business education, accounting, computers and office occupations.

In 1975 the college contracted with the Washington State Department of Corrections to run the complete program, including supervision. George Fuhr and Gabe Joseph were the first coordinators.

The average monthly enrollment for 1987-88 was 541 inmate students.

Walla Walla Community College has had three presidents since its establishment in 1967. Dr. Eldon Dietrich, the first president, directed the establishment of the college, its growth, and construction of the new facilities during his 16-year tenure.

After Dietrich's retirement in 1982, he was succeeded by Dr. Wayland DeWitt. DeWitt had been hired in 1967 as the first dean of student services of the new community college. He resigned in 1984 to accept the presidency of Northeastern Texas Community College.

The current president, Dr. Steven VanAusdle, is a Pomeroy native. VanAusdle had risen from a part-time teaching post at the college in 1969 to the position of vice president and director of continuing education and planning, when he was named president.

From its modest beginning on Park Street, Walla Walla Community College has grown today until it serves over 5,500 students in a four-county area. An ever-expanding curriculum which started with about 40 programs, equally divided between academic and vocational subjects, now meets a wide range of student needs. Over 60 programs are offered, including irrigation technology (the first of its kind in the United States), respiratory therapy, nursing, farm management, agriculture and diesel equipment mechanics and the academic programs all demonstrate the commitment of Walla Walla Community College to creatively serve the educational needs of an ever-changing community.

COLLEGE PLACE AND WALLA WALLA COLLEGE . . . TWO STORIES IN ONE

(While the stories of the community of College Place and that of Walla Walla College are separate, they are at the same time intertwined. When we sought the keys to tell this vital segment of this edition, the answer emerged with the publication of a history of the two by Helen W. Cross. A resident of College Place for more than 40 years, Mrs. Cross has been nicknamed "City Mother" because she is the first woman to sit on the College Place council. She also qualifies readily for another title: "College Place Historian," as a reading of her book will reveal. Besides her service of two 4-year terms on the council Mrs. Cross was for 28 years a proof reader and book editor, so comes highly qualified to write such a history. We have made most liberal use of her book in this and for which grateful thanks is offered.)

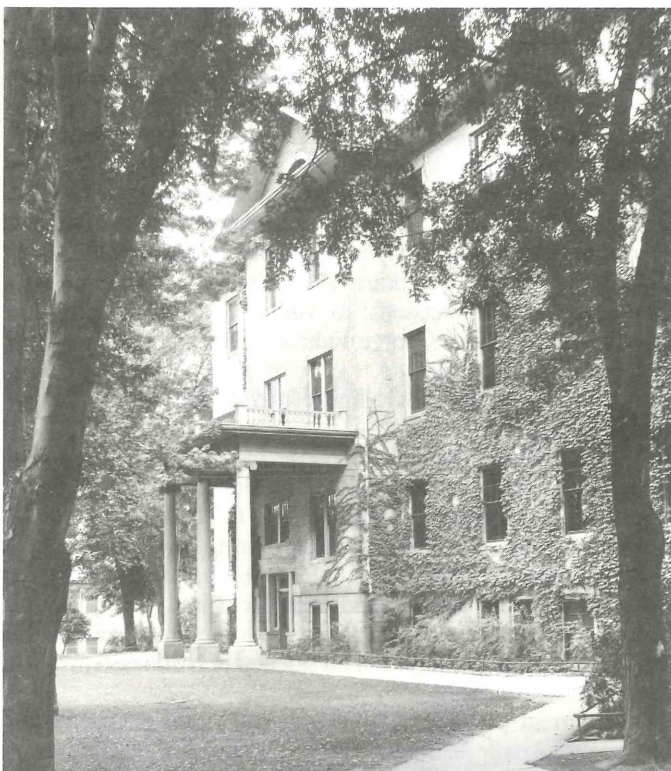
COLLEGE PLACE — A town in Walla Walla (County).

It was named about 1892 on account of growing up about a college established there by the Seventh-day Adventists. (From Edmond S. Meany's "Origin of Washington Geographic Names," citing "Postmaster, in 'Names MSS., Letter 182.' "

From: "College Place, Washington . . . A Short History," by Helen W. Cross . . . April 1988.

Incorporated on December 24, 1945, College Place is quite a young city but its beginnings go back more than a century to 1869.

Over 100 years ago pioneers in the Walla Walla Valley envisioned the area as a good site for a college. An offer of Dr. N. G. Blalock, pioneer valley physician, to donate 40 acres of land to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for a school spearheaded the movement for the start of a college. The entire



WALLA WALLA COLLEGE Administration Building is time honored structure of the college and the city.

town turned out to celebrate the opening of Walla Walla College on Dec. 7, 1892. There were 101 students, and 25 houses had been built around the campus.

Because of Dr. Blalock's offer of land in College Place, a school which had been incorporated July 11, 1887, in Milton, Ore., was discontinued. Many of the Milton Academy students and nearly one-half of its staff became a part of Walla Walla College in 1892.

Three men deserve credit for backing the project by signing an agreement to pay for the land if the denomination did not maintain the school for 25 years (the agreement with Dr. Blalock). They were H. W. Decker, T. L. Ragsdale and Greenville Holbrook. The Baker Boyer Bank put up \$1,000 and the Farmer's Savings Bank gave \$500.

The name College Place was suggested for the area by Henry Carnahan, who came to the area with his wife in 1891. On May 24, 1892, Carnahan became the first College Place postmaster. The post office was in the front room of the Carnahan home.

Professor W. W. Prescott, educational secretary of the Adventist General Conference, who played an important part in determining where the college should be located, was its honorary president for two years. E. A. Sutherland, who had been in charge as principal from the start of the school, then became president.

At the end of the fourth school year, with an enrollment by then of 238 students, including all grades, three men were graduated: Floyd Bralliar, Walter Sutherland and George Enoch.

By 1900 the college consisted of three buildings in addition to those on the farm and its valuation was \$55,000. During its eight years to that date, 1,600 students had attended. Five graduations had included 39 students. Five courses of study were offered and 10 industries of vocational activities had been introduced.

From 1900 to 1909 a debt-lifting campaign resulted in the erection of new buildings and additions to existing ones. By

1909 the college valuation had jumped to \$70,000.

Dr. I. A. Dunlap of Battle Creek, Mich., came here in 1899 as the first business manager of the college. He and his wife, a trained nurse, operated treatment rooms in the basement of the school building. In 1903 he built what later became known as the Bade House and used it for a residence and private sanitarium.

The First Presbyterian Church of College Place was organized Feb. 5, 1905. A church was built at SE Ash and Fourth streets. Among those credited with nurturing the early Presbyterian Church were the Reverend Mrs. Elvira Cobleigh and a divinity student at Whitman College, Luther N. Williams. A new church was completed in 1960 at 325 Damson St. with a seating capacity of 250.

The decade of 1911-1921 was a 10-year period of substantial growth for College Place. A large Adventist church was built and replaced with a larger one when fire destroyed it in January, 1919. In this period, the college expanded its physical plant, the sanitarium was enlarged and local businesses prospered. Established in this decade were such firms as Williams Lumber Co., Jim Hale's Service Station, a tailor shop and the Citizens Bank of College Place.

Transportation via an interurban railroad from Walla Walla to Milton-Freewater was augmented in 1916 when Dr. Frank Coon provided a 12-passenger bus between College Place and Walla Walla. In 1917 Otto Smith started a jitney service with departures every half hour.

In 1912 the Theodore Roosevelt Highway (later College Avenue) was routed through College Place. Two years later, the highway was paved.

On March 31, 1931, College Place experienced a major flood when Mill Creek went over its banks in Walla Walla. In College Place, the water rushing down Walla Walla's Main Street was waist deep in College Place.

The college building program during the 1930s was also sizable, including six major buildings with a seventh started by the end of the decade.

During 1937-39 a new sewage disposal plant and Columbia Auditorium were major additions.

The first recreation hall in College Place was the public elementary school gymnasium. It was dedicated Feb. 5, 1933 and named for Professor W. M. Davis, who retired in 1932 after being principal for 30 years.

The years following World War II brought prosperity problems to College Place, both in the college and the town, and in spite of them (or perhaps because of them) College Place was incorporated. This was done Dec. 24, 1945, with a population of 1,837.

First officials of the new city were Walter Bunch, mayor George R. Soper, treasurer-clerk and Ray Collins, William Merkel, W. W. Wasser, Joe Webster and D. R. Nichols, councilmen. Later, F. E. Stratton was appointed justice of the peace and Chester A. Cameron became the first city marshal.

Between 1945 and 1951 . . . with a census of 3,266 . . . College Place experienced more growing pains. Garbage and trash collection were provided. A city hall and firehouse were erected on College Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. A fire siren was purchased and a volunteer fire department was organized. Two wells were connected to a 500,000-gallon storage tank east of College Avenue between Fourth and Sixth streets.

The city today boasts two fine city parks. The first (Kiwanis Park) came in 1956, a gift of the College Place Kiwanis Club, organized in 1947. The second was sponsored by the College Place Lions Club on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Davin in 1965. Lions Park was dedicated in 1970.

A second recreational center of the town was erected by members of the Village Adventist Church in 1951, on SW Eighth street.

The present post office building was dedicated Aug. 13, 1961.

Probably the most notable period of major construction came in the 1960s. The new \$750,000 College Church at Fourth and Bade, was formally dedicated Oct. 20, 1962. It has a seating capacity of 2,500 in the sanctuary and 130 in the choir loft.

Kretschmar Hall, home of the engineering, mathematics and physics departments, was occupied in 1963, the first academic building to be constructed in 35 years. That was followed by Smith Hall (education) in 1965. Tausick Memorial Pool was named in honor of the Tausick family who had given a generous gift to the college. The gymnasium came as the result of the work of a group called the "190 Club." The gymnasium has proven to be a much needed replacement for Columbia Auditorium, destroyed by an arsonist fire in March, 1978.

The spring of 1964 marked the beginning of occupancy of homes in the new Davin Development residential area.

To provide better facilities for the music and art departments, the Fine Arts Center replaced the Johnson Conservatory in 1966.

The year 1967 was notable for the erection of the Life Sciences Building, home for a host of departments and facilities.

In 1968 the Adventist Village Church had its first service at 12th and Larch. The \$700,000 edifice has a seating capacity of 1,500. Also, in 1968, the Blue Mountain Convalescent Center on Military Road was opened.

In 1970, the tallest building in the city was erected, seven-story Foreman Hall, woman's residence for the college. Sixteen residences were also built in the Davin Addition that year. A sewage lift station was installed at SE 12th and Larch Avenue and a new 8-inch water line was installed on SE 12th, replacing a 6-inch line from Larch Avenue to the convalescent center.

The College Place Volunteer Ambulance Service began operations Jan. 1, 1971, under the direction of Darrell Cowin.

Policing the City of College Place is also in capable hands. From its incorporation in 1945 until 1961, the city's police department consisted of one man. In 1962, under Chief Bill Dethman, the department expanded to include two full time officers and 12 reserves. After 1978, under Chief Dennis Lepiane, there have been six regular officers and three reserves.

Both public and private schools have contributed to the education of College Place residents.

The history of College Place's public schools goes back to April 15, 1883, when the Yellowhawk District was organized.

That district and the College Place District, organized in 1905, were consolidated at a later date to become District 31.

The College Place District 31 and the Valley Chapel No. 13 (organized in 1868) consolidated to form College Place Dist. 200 in 1948. The current College Place School Dist. 250 was formed in 1951 by consolidation of Dist. 200 and Springdale Dist. 63 (organized in 1902). College Place is a non-high school district, whose boundaries are adjacent to Walla Walla District 140 and the Oregon-Washington state line.

A \$2 million addition to the Davis School was done in 1987.

Private schooling here began with Walla Walla College, which began with all grades from the first through college being included in the program. In 1906, grades one through six were moved to separate quarters. By 1908, a two-story building housed all but grade eight.

The new Clara E. Rogers Elementary School at Fourth and Bade was dedicated Dec. 5, 1952.

For secondary education needs, Walla Walla Valley Academy (then called Walla Walla College Academy) had its start when the Milton Academy became part of the college group here in 1892. In 1935 a new unit was provided on the west end of the administration building. In 1954 the academy was housed in the former Campus School building but by 1963-64 it was moved into its present quarters on Hussey Avenue and Fourth. The name was changed to Walla Walla Valley Academy at that time.

The new plant is on a 20-acre site. It originally included offices, classrooms and gymnasium, with a separate industrial arts building. Later, in 1979-80, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,100, a cafeteria and music facilities were added. The library was enlarged and classrooms remodeled.

One of the problems in the College Place community is the need for strong support of two separate school systems, public and private. Over the years, "the people of the city, however, have taken on that burden quite willingly," it was pointed out in a Union-Bulletin news story.

While many business firms today make up the ever-enlarging College Place, probably the most prominent "business" is the campus of Walla Walla College, certainly the integral part of the city's development. Meeting needs of the students of the college has always been an important factor in the development of both the campus and the community.

In the summary closing her short, but highly informative book, Helen Cross notes that "...College Place is a quiet, residential, conservative community which has grown around a college."

WAITSBURG NAME HONORS PIONEER FLOUR MILL BUILDER

WAITSBURG — A town in the east central part of Walla Walla County, was named in honor of Sylvester M. Wait who built a mill there in 1864. The place was known as "Wait's Mill." A post office was secured in 1866 and at the suggestion of the school teacher, William N. Smith, it was called "Delta." In 1868, the people voted to change it to Waitsburg and the Post Office Department accepted the change. (*Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*, pages 154-156.) -- From Edmond S. Meany's *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*.

(The following is from an article written by Nadine Munns Gerkey for the Union-Bulletin.)

First there was the mill . . . and then the town.

Sylvester M. Wait had scoured the country for a likely site to start a flour mill. When he met homesteader Dennis "Doc" Willard in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1864, he found what he was seeking.

Willard was freighting supplies to the Idaho mines at the



WAITSBURG: MAIN STREET . . . A spic-and-span view of the main thoroughfare is provided in this late summer, 1988 photo.

time, but he told Wait if he would come home with him, he would give him land on which to build his mill.

And Wait found the location was ideal. The site was the confluence of the Touchet and Coppei streams. Rich bottom land framed the channels and fertile hill land formed a backdrop. Homesteaders were cropping not only the valley ground but the rolling slopes. And a mill was needed to grind flour for the growers and for the families and adventurers heading for the Idaho gold fields.

Knowing a good thing when he saw one, Wait built his mill. Willard and W. P. Bruce deeded him 9-10 acres for the mill, a residence and right-of-way for a millrace. Costing \$14,000, the mill was framed with stout supporting timbers cut and hauled here in wagons from the Blue Mountains.

Wait equipped the two-story mill with machinery from as far away as San Francisco. Farmers contracted to sell grain to the mill for \$1.50 a bushel, and Wait sold his flour at \$14 a barrel.

The booming settlement was called Wait's Mill. But when the colony founded its first school the next year, the school teacher, William N. Smith, suggested another name, Delta. In 1866, Smith also became the town's first postmaster. Meanwhile, the settlement had another unofficial name, Horsehead City.

However, in 1868, the village voted for a name that stood the test of time: Waitsburg, a name still honoring the founder of Wait's Mill.

In 1866 Wait sold a half interest in the mill operations to William G. and Platt Preston. And in 1871 he sold his remaining interest in the mill to Paine Bros. and Moore, who later sold out to the Preston brothers.

The brothers ferried flour to the Idaho mining camps by pack trains. They were grinding out 50 barrels of flour daily.

William B. Shaffer, the man who was later to become a partner, joined the operation in 1881. At one time the mill was said to produce more flour than any other mill west of the Mississippi River.

While Waitsburg had only one mill — which grew from the first, a two-story building, to a towering four-story structure — the town has had a number of schools.

Schoolmaster Smith first taught in a carpenter shop. The second school house was built in the middle of today's Main Street south of the Touchet River. Then school convened in a house on Coppei Avenue.

When Bruce and Anderson Cox gave three acres of ground to build a school at the site of the present elementary plant, money was raised, and classes started in the new building in 1869. Another facility was erected at the site of Preston Hall for first and second graders in 1886.

Four years after school opened in the carpenter shop, the first official plat of the town was recorded. The date was Feb. 23, 1869. A year later the first official town census showed a population of 109. By 1880 that figure had more than doubled, reaching 248.

But in 1881 fire destroyed nearly half the town, and citizens faced the trying task of rebuilding. Waitsburg lost many of its founding structures in the fire.

Still operating under the charter of the Territory of Washington, Waitsburg began functioning under the historic document in 1886. That was only three years before Washington became the 42nd state of the union.

Under the charter, the young town could prohibit houses of prostitution, gambling and opium-smoking. It could regulate the speed at which animals or vehicles, ran through town. It even regulated the measuring and weighing of hay, coal and wood. And, it limited town indebtedness to \$1,000.

Today, nearly 103 years later, the town is still flourishing and taking special pride in preserving its heritage. This is found most noteworthy in the work of the Waitsburg Historical Society in restoring and presenting the Bruce family's mansion as a museum. Most recently has come the acceptance of the society in the work of preserving the old flour mill on the Touchet.

MISSIONARY WAS FIRST PRESCOTT SETTLER

PRESCOTT -- A town in the central part of Walla Walla County, named in 1881 in honor of C. H. Prescott, General Superintendent of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company. At that time, the company made Prescott a railway division with machine shops, etc., which were soon afterward moved to Starbuck. (R. B. Smith in *Names MSS.* Letter 480). The town of Prescott was platted May 12, 1882 by the Oregon Improvement company. (*Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington*, p. 166). The first settlement on the site was by Rev. H. H. Spalding in 1859. (*History of Walla Walla County*, p. 143.) Great trouble with freights was caused by the same name being given to a water-tank station on the tide flats at Tacoma. It required 17 years (1893- 1910) of complaints and correspondence to change the name of the water-tank station. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Feb. 23, 1910.) — From Edmond Meany's *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*.

(The following is from a story written for the *Union-Bulletin* by Nadine Munns Gerkey.)

In the beginning, there was no town.

There was only a beaten path along the Touchet River that marked the comings and goings of the Indian as he moved to higher campgrounds in the spring and returned to winter by lowland streams.

But it became a home for the Rev. Henry Harmon Spalding, the first white man to settle at the future site of Prescott. The year was 1859, and Spalding farmed the fertile land and grazed livestock on the lush valley floor.

He hadn't come West to farm. Rather, in 1835, Spalding

offered to serve as a missionary to the Indians after studying at the Presbyterian Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Eventually settling in Lapwai, Idaho, as an Indian agent, Spalding earlier noted in his diary that on July 4, 1839, he and his wife, Eliza, had stopped on the branch of the "Tushee" (Touchet) River.

In 1859, when Spalding's son-in-law staked out a claim on the Touchet stream, Spalding followed suit. He lived along the river at the serene site for three years.

When he received a government appointment to teach at a new school in Lapwai, he accepted. Injured while cutting wood in late 1873, he died about eight months later. He never knew that the riverside farm he had called home was destined to grow into a thriving town.

In 1881, when Oregon Railroad and Navigation Co. extended its line northward from Walla Walla, it founded Prescott as a railroad station. The original 45-block town plat was filed with the Walla Walla County auditor on May 15, 1882, by the Oregon Improvement Co.

The outpost settlement, named after the station superintendent, the town's first official resident, grew as additions flourished; Block's Addition in 1882, Fairview Addition and Paine's Addition in 1883 and, the same year, an addition by Oregon Improvement Co.

At first, Prescott was only a depot near the river with a number of crude huts being built by the OR&N, but when H. P. Isaacs built the Great Northern Pacific Flour Mills there in 1883, the station became a town.

"DIXIE" . . . THE TUNE . . . BECAME TOWN'S NAME

DIXIE — A town in the southeastern part of Walla Walla County. Herman C. Actor was the first settler, but more interesting were the three brothers Kershaw, also early settlers. They were musicians and their favorite tune was "Dixie." They became known as the "Dixie" boys. Where they located, the crossing of the creek became known as Dixie Crossing, a Dixie School, Dixie Cemetery and finally Dixie Station on Doctor Baker's pioneer railroad, completed the evolution of the town's name. (*History of Southeastern Washington*, pages 166-177.) — From Edmond S. Meany's *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*.

In 1882, the town of Dixie, nestled in the foothills country of the Blue Mountains on U.S. Highway 12 and 10 miles east of Walla Walla, was platted on land homesteaded by Herman Charles Actor a quarter century before.

Actor, who had been employed by Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens during the 1855 Indian treaties held in Walla Walla, saw the land, liked what he saw and returned to take up land as soon as settlers were permitted.

Dixie residents, along with a host of former residents and

friends, celebrated in fine style the town's 100th birthday in 1982.

It was in 1882, that Dr. Dorsey Syng Baker, who had earlier completed his 30-mile line from Wallula to Walla Walla, brought rails on to Dixie. It was this action which spurred platting and settling of the town itself. A Walla Walla druggist and visionary, H. E. Holmes, purchased land from Actor who had homesteaded the bulk of land now known as Dixie and surrounding it, and platted the town when the Baker rails terminated here.

While few relics of its heyday are to be found today, Dixie was to become a thriving town on the Walla Walla-Lewiston stagecoach line and later the new highway. At one time the community boasted numerous stores, churches, a hotel and had its own weekly newspaper, "The Dixie Progress," published by Harry G. Roes from 1913 to 1915.

Dixie has a fine water system as well as a modernly equipped volunteer fire department. Elementary grades are taught in the building once housing a high school. More than 100 homes are located in the Dixie of today.

BURBANK ONCE CENTER OF IRRIGATION DREAM

BURBANK — “A town in Walla Walla County. Will H. Parry of Seattle was interested in an irrigating enterprise which he called the Burbank Power and Water Company, and the site of the power house Burbank in honor of Luther Burbank, the famous horticulturist.” (From Edmond S. Meany’s *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*.)

At the time of his death (about 1923) Parry was a member of the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.

Founded on irrigation, Burbank continues that heritage today, located in the southernmost part of the vast Columbia Basin Irrigation Project.

While the initial project, financed with private money, did not succeed, that of the federal project has proven eminently successful, proving that with ample water at its back door, the region could succeed.

Highest hopes were held for Burbank, according to the opening lines of a colorful brochure about the new irrigation project and town:

“Burbank lies in the very heart of this new-found Columbia River empire and embraces 14,000 acres of the richest and prettiest fruit, alfalfa and garden lands in the valley. It is situated in Walla Walla County at the juncture of three famous valleys, the Yakima, the Snake and the Columbia. It draws upon the charm, the resources, the experience of each and adds to them its own peculiar advantages. It is literally “The Heart of the Irrigated Northwest.”

The Burbank project was publicized the length and breadth of the United States from the years just prior to World War I and afterward. Lack of financing doomed the project, however, and it died about 1928.

The well-illustrated brochure bears no date but from dated references within it, the printing was 1913. It was January, 1910 that the community known on the 1909 county atlas as “Burbank Station and P.O.” became “Burbank — A Modern Town,” according to the platting of the town.

It is under this heading in the brochure that we find the following:

“With the opening of several thousand acres of land to settlement, the necessity of providing a commercial center and shipping point is at once apparent.

“So, Burbank, a modern town, has been platted.

“A high bench near the confluence of the Snake and the Columbia Rivers, overlooking these two mightiest streams of the West, and just across the river from the thriving towns of Pasco and Kennewick, was chosen as the fitting spot.

“Here, the Northern Pacific Railroad passes through the townsite, while near by the O.- W. R. & N. (a second railroad line) crosses the Columbia. On the opposite shore is the North Bank Railroad.

“The lands to be irrigated stretch away to the eastward upon the rising plain, easy of access to the town. Eighty acres have been platted, with broad streets, along which have been set out young shade trees, which will add beauty and comfort.

“A commodious, steam-heated hotel, for the comfort of the traveling public and purchasers, is under operation by the (Burbank) Company . . .”

Burbank, for many years a tiny community “across the river from Pasco,” has sprung to life since the creation of McNary Dam’s reservoir in 1953. A second residential district, Burbank Heights, is located adjacent to the spacious and popular Hood park, created by the Corps of Engineers from the pioneer Frank Hood farm and residence.

Sizable home building has caused the town to blossom into one of the county’s major communities, with a modern fire department formed in 1953, five churches, several stores, a restaurant, tavern and an excellent school system, including high school (Columbia). Burbank Grange No. 630 was founded in 1917.

While it was one of several western Walla Walla County towns in early days, Burbank now has easily outstripped the others, with a current population of some 3,500.

WALLULA ONCE HUB OF TRANSPORTATION OF COUNTY

WALLULA — A town at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, in the southwestern part of Walla Walla County, occupies the site of the first or “old” Fort Walla Walla. The name means the same as the Nez Perce word “Walla Walla” but is in the Walla Walla language. (From Edmond S. Meany’s *Origin of Washington Geographic Names*, citing Rev. Myron Eells, *American Anthropologist* for January, 1892).

The Wallula area, long recognized as an excellent site for a major city, was dubbed “Where Local History Began” by a former historian-editor of the Union-Bulletin, Robert Fisher.

In his reasoning for this appellation, Fisher cited a lengthy list of history makers who visited the area of Old Fort Walla Walla down through the years. These included figures such as Wilson Price Hunt, Captain Bonneville, the Whitmans and the Spaldings and the first Catholic missionaries, Blanchet and

Demers.

It was here, around the old fort (built first in 1818 by the Northwest Company) that the first city of Wallula was platted in 1862. Booming, to the point where it was the heart of river navigation for many years, the town was the terminus of Dr. Dorsey Baker’s railroad from here to Walla Walla, completed in 1875.

Fire and flood were to hit the town, necessitating its being moved until the third time, ahead of the backwaters of McNary Dam, the town was moved to its present location.

Following its platting in 1862, the town became a major focal point on the Columbia during the 1860s and 1870s, supplying mines in the interior of Idaho and Montana and Oregon. A more permanent basis was ahead, though, as railroads came in the 1880s, with added growth to where the town boasted several stores, hotel and a weekly newspaper, “The Herald.”

Fire destroyed the business district in 1889 and Columbia River floods of the next decade further devastated the town. Wallula continued as a railroad center of some importance for many years.

With the flooding of the area by McNary Dam, people opted for moving their homes to the present location or moving elsewhere. It was a movement led by the Wallula Women's Club and Community Association that brought about re-location

of the town. A combination store and post office are the only businesses and a school and church implement social activities of the community.

Now, across the highway from the town, a sign and former monument at the fort, call attention to the fort's location, now covered by several feet of water of Lake Wallula, the name of the manmade lake created behind McNary Dam.

TOUCHET EARLY ATTRACTED COUNTY SETTLERS

(The following article is provided courtesy of L. L. Dodd, member of the Walla Walla County Centennial Committee and Northwest archivist for Whitman College's Penrose Memorial Library.)

Touchet, located 16 miles west of Walla Walla on U.S. Highway 12, has been an important farming community since the mid- to late-1880s.

The name is believed to be of French Canadian origin. French Canadians were very early travelers and settlers along the Walla Walla River, and it is believed that they gave the name "Touchet" to a river just west of the present town of Touchet. Lewis and Clark named this river the "White Stallion," then in 1843 Reverend Gustavus Hines entered into his diary that he had camped near the "Tousha" River.

The earliest business ventures in the Touchet area was a stage station at or near the confluence of the Touchet River with the Walla Walla River. Here, the Schnebly family operated a river crossing, hotel and other necessary facilities for travelers. This became a popular stopping point between Walla Walla and Wallula.

The Walla Walla and Touchet river valleys were popular settling points for early pioneers, and gradually the better bottom lands were taken up.

The early 1870s saw the coming of a narrow gauge railroad, and a siding was established just east of the Touchet River. Here, the residents of this area could send and/or receive

agricultural produce and other products.

By 1871, enough people were residing in the area for the establishment of a post office.

In the spring of 1884, a townsite was surveyed and at that time the new town consisted of two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a post office. The town continued to grow and became an important supply point for residents of the area. At one time, Touchet had a commercial club, auto dealer, meat market, bank, several general merchandise stores, lumber yard and a newspaper.

Although today the major trading centers for the Touchet area residents are Walla Walla and the Tri-Cities, Touchet still supports the local economy with a store, taverns, seed plant, post office and agricultural chemical plants.

The agricultural products from the area are alfalfa, both for seed and hay; wheat and barley, coming off the rolling hills along the Touchet River and, on a smaller scale, potatoes, beans and asparagus.

Touchet's economy has become fairly stable and, although not the growing community as it was in earlier years, it still serves the local community with many of its needs.

Touchet has a long history of education, having built a school house in early days. Today, the school is housed in a modern structure and teaches the first 12 grades.

Local residents are very active in the grange, service clubs and church activities, as well as the school. These groups and activities help keep the community prospering.

LOWDEN ONE OF COUNTY'S OLDEST SETTLEMENTS

LOWDEN - Pronounced LOW-duhn. Named for early pioneer settler, Francis M. Lowden Sr., in 1899. (From *Washington Place Names*, by James W. Phillips).

(The following information is supplied courtesy of Lawrence L. Dodd, a great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Lowden, Sr.)

Twelve miles west of Walla Walla is the small farming community of Lowden. Established at the turn of the century, this community is located in the historical region known as "Frenchtown."

Early settlers in the western portion of the Walla Walla Valley were French Canadians. These early pioneers were ex-employees of the fur trading companies who had either worked at Fort Nez Perce (Fort Walla Walla, near the confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia rivers) or had traveled through the area.

The fertile flood plain of the Walla Walla River and the good climate attracted these early settlers and even before the arrival of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, several French Canadian families were settled upon the land to the west of the Whitman Mission.

In 1869, Francis M. Lowden, a '49er and packer who had transported goods to gold mining regions in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, purchased for \$1,600 in gold coin a 160-acre ranch from Charles White, located at the confluence of Dry Creek and the Walla Walla River.

Here, Lowden established a large cattle ranch, farming operation and dairy.

To meet the need for transporting cattle and farm products from this area, the Oregon Railway and Navigation Co. built a new siding at the present town of Lowden. Railroad officials requested of the Lowden family that the siding be named in

honor of Frank Lowden.

Permission was granted and when the sign appeared, it read "Louden."

Mrs. Lowden informed the railroad company that if they could not spell the name accurately, they could not use it. Shortly thereafter, the sign was corrected.

To accommodate local residents and travelers, a business district consisting of a blacksmith shop, store, post office, warehouse, lumber yard, butcher shop and hotel were soon

established. A large rural community was served by these firms for several years.

Although going through a number of changes, this small, unincorporated farming community still helps support the local economy.

A large grain elevator stores and ships local wheat and barley, a seed plant supporting the alfalfa seed business and two wineries (and a third, three miles away) allow this small farming community to survive.

MAJOR GROWTH SEEN FOR SCHOOLS

(While providing adequate educational facilities for its residents has been a matter of importance to Walla Wallans since 1864-65, no growth period has been greater than that of the past 35 years, or, since the first edition of "The Walla Walla Story." The narration in this 1988 edition is one of tremendous expansion for both public and private schools here. We are indebted to Marilyn Brown, secretary to District 140 Superintendent of Schools, Dennis Ray, for assistance in providing the statistics of that growth for the following article.)

Testimonial to the growth of education facilities in Walla Walla since 1953 are the five new public schools and the two new private schools constructed in that period. This, of course, does not consider the gigantic strides made in the decades at Whitman College and building of Walla Walla Community College, covered elsewhere in this book.

Historically, education of the city's youth dates from 1864, when the first private school (Catholic) was established and 1865 when the first public school was started. In that latter year, Baker School opened its doors to about 150 students. Walla Walla's second public school, the Willow and Eighth Street School, was organized in 1868 and served until 1879, when the Park Street School (located at Park and Newell streets) was erected at a cost of \$2,000 (see Chester Maxey history section).

The old Baker School was built in 1882, while additional grade schools were built in the following order: Sharpstein, 1898; Washington, 1902; Green Park, 1906; Jefferson, 1916; "new" Paine School, 1927 and Edison, 1936.

First unit of the Walla Walla High School Building (since razed to make way for the YMCA) was erected in 1903. Previously, students of the city's first high school classes met in Baker School in 1889. In the following year, classes were held in the old Paine School building (erected 1889). The first high school gymnasium was constructed in 1906. An addition to the high school was built in 1916 and the present gymnasium (now part of the YMCA operations) was opened in 1936.

In the 1953 edition, the public schools were summarized as follows:

"In the present public school system, seven elementary units are operated for children from first to sixth grade age. Modern buildings have been added to both Washington and Green park schools, and, in 1949, Pioneer Junior High School opened its doors to seventh and eighth grade pupils. Plans call for a second junior high school to accommodate ninth grade pupils, thus easing the load expected at Wa-Hi as World War II babies reach their teens."

The following material serves to update the public schools' history.

The old Baker School was closed in 1955 and later demolished. The site is presently occupied by the Lariat Motel.

In 1958, Berney, Prospect Point and Maxson schools which had been operating separately as county schools, consolidated with the Walla Walla School District. In 1964, the Braden School District consolidated with Walla Walla School District. In 1974, the Lowden School, long before consolidated with Walla Walla School District, was closed.

Jefferson School closed in 1980. In 1983, it was sold to SRO Theaters and demolished. The Jefferson Park Cinema is now at that location.

The Washington School building was sold to the City of Walla Walla in 1981 but remained in use as a district school building until June 1982, when Blue Ridge Elementary School opened.

Walla Walla District 140 administrative offices were formerly housed in a residence at 364 South Park St. (adjacent to old Wa-Hi, now the YMCA). The building had been purchased and remodeled for that purpose in the 1950s, with a school board meeting room and additional office spaces in an annex. As a result of a fire in the annex in 1983, which destroyed the board room and damaged several adjacent offices, a new administrative building was constructed and opened in April, 1985.

Here are some highlights of schools built here since 1953:

Berney Elementary School (579 students) — Formerly a separately operated county school, Berney consolidated with Walla Walla School District in 1958, as did Maxson and Prospect Point. The old Berney building, constructed in 1904, was demolished in 1978 and a new facility was constructed on the site, opening in 1979.

Blue Ridge Elementary School (504 students) — An earth-sheltered facility designed for energy conservation, Blue Ridge opened in 1982. The facility is located on U.S. Veterans Administration property, deeded to the district by the federal government. It replaced both Washington and Jefferson schools as a facility for students in the western part of the district.

Prospect Point Elementary School (587 students) — The old building was demolished and a new facility was constructed on the site, opening in 1970.

Garrison Junior High School (495 students) — Located opposite the Southeastern Washington Fairgrounds at Orchard Street and Chase Avenue, it opened in 1955.

Walla Walla High School (1,127 students) — This school opened Jan. 2, 1964, replacing the school built in 1903 on Park

Street. A new vocational education building on campus opened in 1984, replacing an old vo-ag building on Park Street, which is now used by the district for warehouse, bus and office space.

Some further notes on other schools:

Edison Elementary School, with a registration of 354 students, was completed in 1936.

Green Park Elementary School, with 342 students enrolled, was completed in 1905, with an addition coming in 1952.

Sharpstein Elementary School has 465 students, opening in 1905.

Pioneer Junior High School, with 627 students, opened in 1950.

Paine Child Development Center has 150 students. The former elementary school, constructed in 1926, has become a center for special programs, such as Headstart, pre-school handicapped, state and federal programs providing migrant and bilingual services and Teen Age Parent (TAP), an educational program developed to encourage young mothers and pregnant students to continue or re-enter an academic program.

The Alternative Learning Program, with an enrollment of 45, is an alternative instructional program for junior high and high school students, housed on the Paine School campus.

Catholic education facilities, consisting of grades and high school at St. Patrick School in 1953, stems from the St. Vincent Academy opened at Fifth and Poplar in 1864 on land donated

by Edmund Barron. In 1899 a new school for boys was built, LaSalle Institute, and classes were conducted here until 1902, then the facilities were used for grade school classes until the St. Patrick School was built on the grounds in 1928. But, boy's high schoolers attended Wa-Hi until 1932, when they began such classes at St. Patrick's.

Changes in Catholic education came following formation of a new parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Assumption) in 1953. A school was first built and opened Sept. 5, 1955, with church services held there until Assumption parish church was erected in 1967. De Sales High School opened in 1959, with attendance currently (1988) being 162. St. Patrick grades attend at Assumption School and grades 7 through 12 are at DeSales.

St. Paul's School for Girls was founded in 1872 by Lemuel H. Wells, who had in 1871 founded St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walla Walla. Wells headed the boarding school for girls of both elementary and high school grades until 1884, when he left to go to Tacoma where he opened the Annie Wright Seminary.

St. Paul's School closed from 1886 to 1897, when it came under the guidance of Imogene Boyer. The school grew in popularity and a new building was built in 1906 on Catherine Street. The school closed in 1963 and St. Paul's Apartments are now located on the site, adjacent to the church.

THE MANY THINGS TO DO IN WALLA WALLA!

By HARRY DRAKE

Most people living in a metropolitan area wonder what they would do with their leisure time if they should visit or move to a smaller city like Walla Walla.

In fact, they would be confronted with too many choices here!

What doesn't Walla Walla have? No seashore closer than a day's drive, no big league ball games, no Broadway shows, no \$100-a-plate dining facilities, no tall buildings and no traffic problems.

Except for these, Walla Walla has everything and more. One can be a spectator to many events, one can actually participate in those events, one can serve his fellow man or the community as a volunteer, one can take continuing education and hobby courses at the community college, one can enjoy scenery in real mountains or along large lakes, one can get away from it all in a few minutes, or the fisherman and hunter can be in his "heaven."

Many of these options are described elsewhere in this book, but a summary seems appropriate.

FOR THE SPECTATOR:

Both colleges present well-financed, frequent programs, exhibits and speakers of national reputation, often free to the public.

The community college presents several performances of well directed plays at the Fort Walla Walla Outdoor Amphitheater each year. These have included "Kismet," "South Pacific," and productions of that type with experienced and volunteer casts giving professional performances in a delightful outdoor setting.

There are almost weekly plays put on by the colleges and

Walla Walla Little Theater.

There is an annual hot air balloon "Stampede" with participants coming here from all over the West, and a Walla Walla "Sweet" onion Festival, to celebrate our special crop. Walla Walla has its annual Southeastern Washington Fair and Waitsburg has its Days of Real Sport. Each offers horse racing pari-mutuel betting and the Fair has night rodeo.

The Walla Walla Symphony, the oldest continuous symphony in the West, has several programs each year in Cordiner Hall and an outdoor program in Pioneer Park on the Fourth of July.

The Fort Walla Walla Museum Complex has various annual programs such as a trapper's "Rendezvous" and several ethnic weekends in addition to its regular exhibits at the museum and "Pioneer Village" sections.

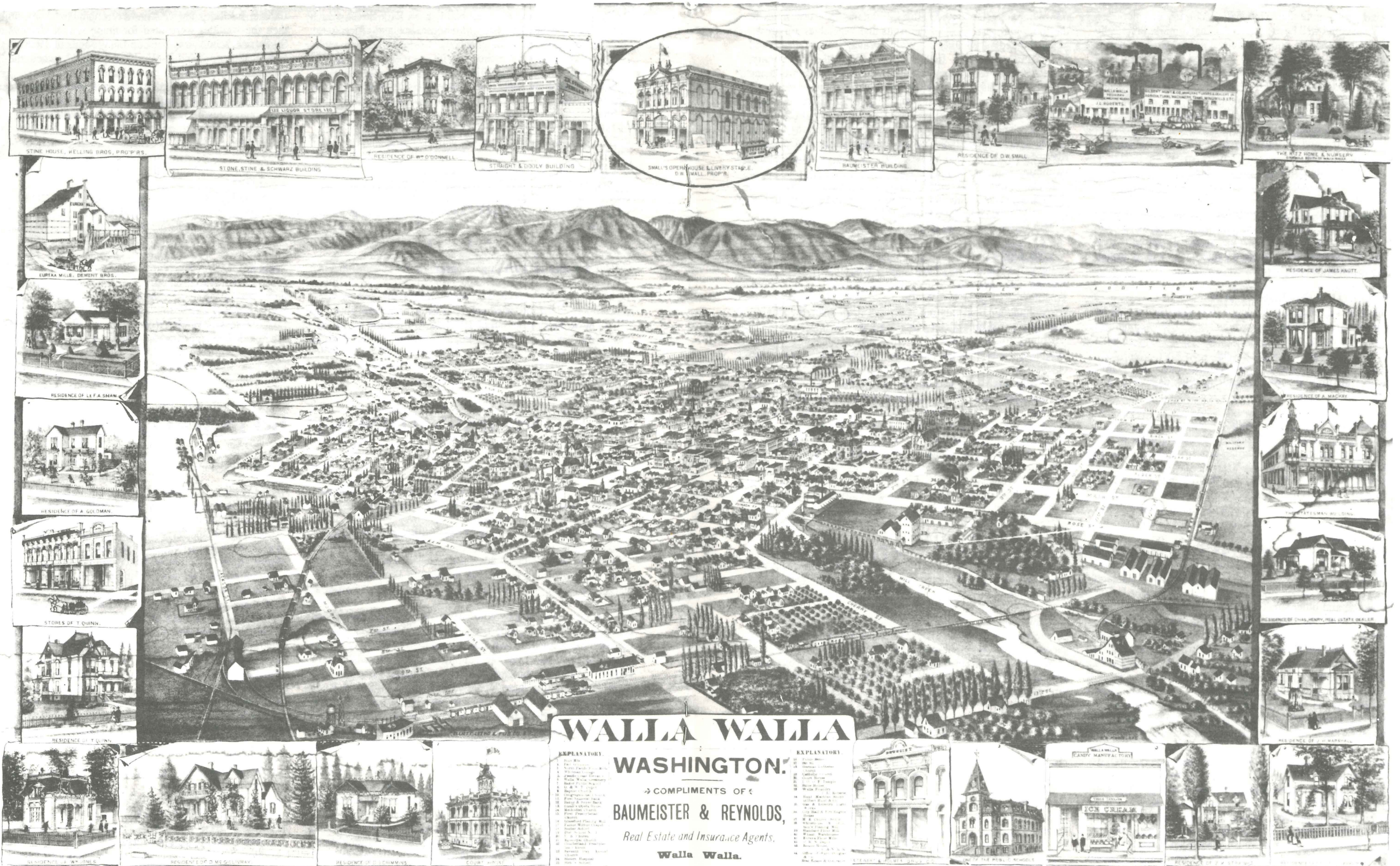
The Whitman Mission National Historic Site has special programs each weekend during the summer in addition to its regular exhibits.

Kirkman House, in Walla Walla, and Bruce Mansion in Waitsburg, furnish the visitor with an insight into "good living" in the last century.

Carnegie Center continuously shows varying exhibits of art and photography.

FOR THE PARTICIPANT:

Except for the paid outside programs, each of the foregoing activities welcome participation, either as performers or as docents or exhibitors. Participants and coaches are also welcome in all of the sport activities described later. A good factor in Walla Walla is that it is only a five-minute drive from home to observe, practice, exhibit or perform in these events.



WALLA WALLA . . . The way the city appeared as Washington entered statehood. This "birdseye" view, a popular lithograph artform of the 19th century, was done in 1889-90. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

FOR THE VOLUNTEER:

Foreign people note that America is a country of volunteers. Walla Walla could well be the epitome of that remark. Practically everybody from Scouts and Campfire Girls to senior citizens does some type of work in this unlimited field. They even volunteer to help other volunteers.

The U.S. Veterans Medical Center always needs help and the other two hospitals welcome volunteers.

The Senior Center and the RSVP programs can always use another hand in helping the elderly.

The Red Cross and various church-sponsored programs can use talents of all kinds.

The county and the cities always have openings on their various boards and commissions for those who wish to participate in government.

There are dozens of other choices for volunteerism. If some of them sound like work, look around for one that is fun and fills your needs for a fuller life. It's also nice to know that in this small community there is some volunteer who will be around to help you when needed.

FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Walla Walla Community College offers part-time courses in a very wide variety of subjects, such as horse-shoeing, Japanese language, engineering technician and even hobby-type subjects such as sewing and microwave cooking.

Because of the very short commuting distances, many people who work full time are able to end up with degrees at any of the three local colleges.

FOR SCENIC ATTRACTIONS:

Some of these have been described in other articles of this book. To summarize, let us take a trip from downtown to increasing distances from town.

Downtown Walla Walla has many historic buildings dating back to the 1870s which are best observed on foot. They include the building where the first Washington State Constitutional convention was held, Kirkman House, Carnegie Center and the Whitman College campus.

A little further out are Pioneer Park with its aviary, flower gardens, many types of trees and two small lakes; Borleske Stadium, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, ball diamonds and track; several other parks; many large, interesting older homes along Palouse and other streets; the Walla Walla Senior Center at Jefferson Park; the SE Washington fairgrounds. A random drive around town will show all types of landscaping and flower gardens. For instance, the writer has a 30-foot Sitka spruce from Alaska with limbs almost touching a 40-foot Magnolia Grandiflora from Mississippi.

At or near the city limits one reaches the Veterans Memorial Golf Course, Walla Walla Country Club, city-county airport, Walla Walla Community College, the U.S. VA Medical Center and, of course, the Washington State Penitentiary. At the western edge of town is Fort Walla Walla Park with its camping facilities, museum complex, amphitheater and a runway for radio-controlled model airplanes and cars. Beyond these is a natural area with a trail leading through native dryland vegetation and a wet area which seems like a jungle, remote from all civilization.

The City of College Place, with its Walla Walla College and two parks, adjoins Walla Walla on the southwest. Most of the Walla Walla Sweet Onions are grown around that city.

Beyond the Walla Walla city limits wheat and pea fields extend in every direction, particularly for about 100 miles to the northeast and southwest, forming the Palouse wheat area. The wheatlands

thin out to the west except where irrigation is possible. It also transitions into the forested Blue Mountains in a few miles to the south and east. Most of the fruits and vegetables are grown in the immediate vicinity of Walla Walla, College Place and Milton-Freewater, Ore. In the far western part of the county, irrigated orchards of grapes and other tree fruits are being developed at a fast pace since the adjacent dam-created reservoirs have provided an unlimited source of shallow ground water.

In an hour's time one can be at an elevation of 5,000 to 6,000 feet and take off on a weekend of backpacking, or one can be at one of the large lakes along the Snake or Columbia rivers for a picnic at a desert oasis or for boating, fishing, swimming, sailing or water skiing.

In two or three hours one can drive to the Wallowa Mountains or Anthony Lakes, with their truly Rocky Mountain appearance, or, to the west, one can be near Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens or Mt. Adams in the Cascades.

FOR SPORTS:

Big game hunters only have to go a few miles to be in prime elk and deer hunting territory that is the envy of the West. To some, it is so easy with a gun that they choose bow-and-arrow hunting. Bird hunting is common all over the county, especially in the breaks along Snake River.

Fishing for trout, steelhead and bass is convenient in the mountain streams, Snake River and in the Walla Walla River below town.

Cycling is a very common pastime for many young and old persons. There is a marked trail from Rooks Park, east of town, through the city and College Place to the Whitman Mission. However, most streets and roads are safe for cycling.

Of course, many people jog daily for health and recreation. There are at least four annual organized runs in which everybody can participate.

Walla Walla also has its Little League and soccer leagues, its horse-shoe contests, its square dancing clubs, antique car clubs, horseback trail rides, 4-H clubs -- to name a few.

FOR MORE SEDENTARY ACTIVITIES:

If one gets tired of all of this physical activity, there are Toastmasters, several contract bridge clubs, a genealogical society, many patriotic organizations and all of the usual fraternal and service clubs.

SUMMARY:

We haven't even covered church activities of all kinds, gardening or ordinary conversation.

Nothing to do? There is so much to do here that one must be selective if one wants to be a couch potato before the TV set for a few hours a month!

MAJOR ROLE FOR COLLEGE IN FORT AMPHITHEATRE

(Material for the following has been provided courtesy of Jean Weber, journalism instructor, Walla Walla Community College.)

The Fort Walla Walla Amphitheatre (in Fort Walla Walla Park adjacent to the museum complex) was completed in 1976 for the production of *Trails West*, written by Bill Gulick for the Outdoor Drama Association.

The amphitheatre was built to seat 1,350 and had 900 square feet of acting area. The production, *Trails West* ran for two summers but was not continued after 1977.

From that time until Walla Walla Community College leased the facility for a summer production in 1981, the amphitheatre had been largely unused. The college wished to produce a summer musical as an instructional program through the drama department and needed such a facility. Dr. Eldon J. Dietrich, president of Walla Walla Community College then, negotiated a lease for the theatre with the City of Walla Walla for summer productions.

In 1981 the college did a massive clean up of the area and produced *Oklahoma* under the direction of Burnace E. Mortensen, Walla Walla Community College drama instructor, with Jose Rambaldi, of the Whitman College music department, musical director.

For the 1982 production of *Music Man* the college added an orchestra pit to the facility. The pit was designed and constructed by Les Johnson. Mortensen was again director/producer with Rambaldi musical director.

The 1983 musical was *South Pacific*, directed by Mortensen and Rambaldi. Mortensen retired at the end of the 1983-84 school year and an instructional drama program could not be developed in time for the 1984 season.

In 1985 the Walla Walla Community College Foundation joined in a cooperative agreement with the college to produce the summer musical events. Besides marketing and advertising responsibilities, the Foundation agreed to provide scholarships and share in production costs. Several major changes to the facility have also been effected since by the Foundation as well.

The first major improvement was a zone sound system, designed by the college media technician, Vic Phillips, and physics instructor, Dr. Charles Lincoln, for the 1985 production, *Sound of Music*. Jo Anne Rasmussen, head of the college's drama department, directed, with John Raymond Freimann, of the Whitman College drama department, the associate director and scene designer. Rambaldi was musical director and Julie Jones, DeSales vocal instructor, acting as choral director.

These three have teamed up for productions in 1986 (*Fiddler on the Roof*), 1987 (*Brigadoon*) and 1987 (*Kismet*).

According to Foundation director, Charles Cottingham, several further improvements to the facilities are planned.

Since 1981, more than 100 persons from Walla Walla and surrounding communities have been involved in each production, which must be (among other criteria) "affordable, family oriented, an artistic or aesthetic contribution to the community. . ."

Performances are scheduled for the last three weeks in July.

FT. WALLA WALLA MUSEUM . . . BUILT TO TELL THE REGION'S HISTORY

(*"To tell the Walla Walla Story with the tools and the trappings of its pioneers and those who followed to build this region of Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon." Upon those words the Fort Walla Walla Museum Complex in Fort Walla Walla Park has been built by a host of citizens. This article is taken from the book, "Fort Walla Walla Museum," published to tell that story.*)

The Fort Walla Walla museum structures began with the dedication in 1977 of the last of five agricultural-display buildings on the hill overlooking the old Army cemetery in a corner of the former U. S. Veterans Administration Medical Center grounds.

Really, the story of the museum complex . . . regarded as one of the finest in the Northwest, "or anywhere," its staunchest boosters say . . . began in 1886. That year an organization was formed of pioneers of Walla Walla to preserve the history of the area. Since that time, over a century ago, those pioneers and their descendants, have striven to accomplish the goal.

Today's museum is testimony to the zeal of both yesterday's pioneers and especially today's museum volunteers.

Today's museum, on Myra Road, had its beginnings in the 1960s when many people banded together to start construction of a museum. Men and women alike were found in the forefront then as now. The builders of the 1960s included people like Helen Reser, Carl Penner, J. J. Laughlin, Dorothy Elliott, Howard Burgess, L. K. Jones, Gerwyn Jones and many others.

In 1965 a museum site was selected under the leadership of Dorothy Elliott. Lee Kraft Walla Walla's first city manager, was helpful in arranging for the location of Fort Walla Walla Park.

The idea of a museum long had been nurtured here by Walla Walla residents before the park site was selected in 1965. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the first building was two years later. In 1957, permission had been given by the City of Walla Walla to use a room in City Hall for the display of historical items. Margaret Pettyjohn, president of the Walla Walla County Pioneer and Historical Society at the time, had charge of the room and conducted tours of the county to historic sites.

Walla Walla architect Gerald Mosman, using ideas of Carl Penner and his own, designed the working master plan for what we have today and what we will have in the future. The design

called for a museum complex of several buildings to be erected on land in Fort Walla Walla Park adjacent to the 1857 military cemetery . . . ground which had been set aside by the federal government and the City of Walla Walla for historic purposes.

Penner himself always referred to the complex as “a living plant.”

The concept was that of a half wagon wheel, with the “hub” being the main museum building, with “spokes” or pathways leading from it to five other buildings.

That main building “should include an auditorium for lectures and slide shows, a place where the museum’s fine collection could be used, where groups could enrich their programs and studies with the materials at hand,” Penner said.

“The important thing is a vision of a living memorial. It should be the goal of the museum founders to establish a continuing institution, one whose worth would insure its upkeep and continuity,” Penner added.

Penner was to be a key part of teams which ensured the birthing of the museum. First he and former Walla Walla County extension agent, Howard Burgess, combined efforts to gather up a host of discarded farm implements from many miles around Walla Walla. These tools, first made a highly popular display at Southeastern Washington Fair, became the bulwark of farm displays at the museum.

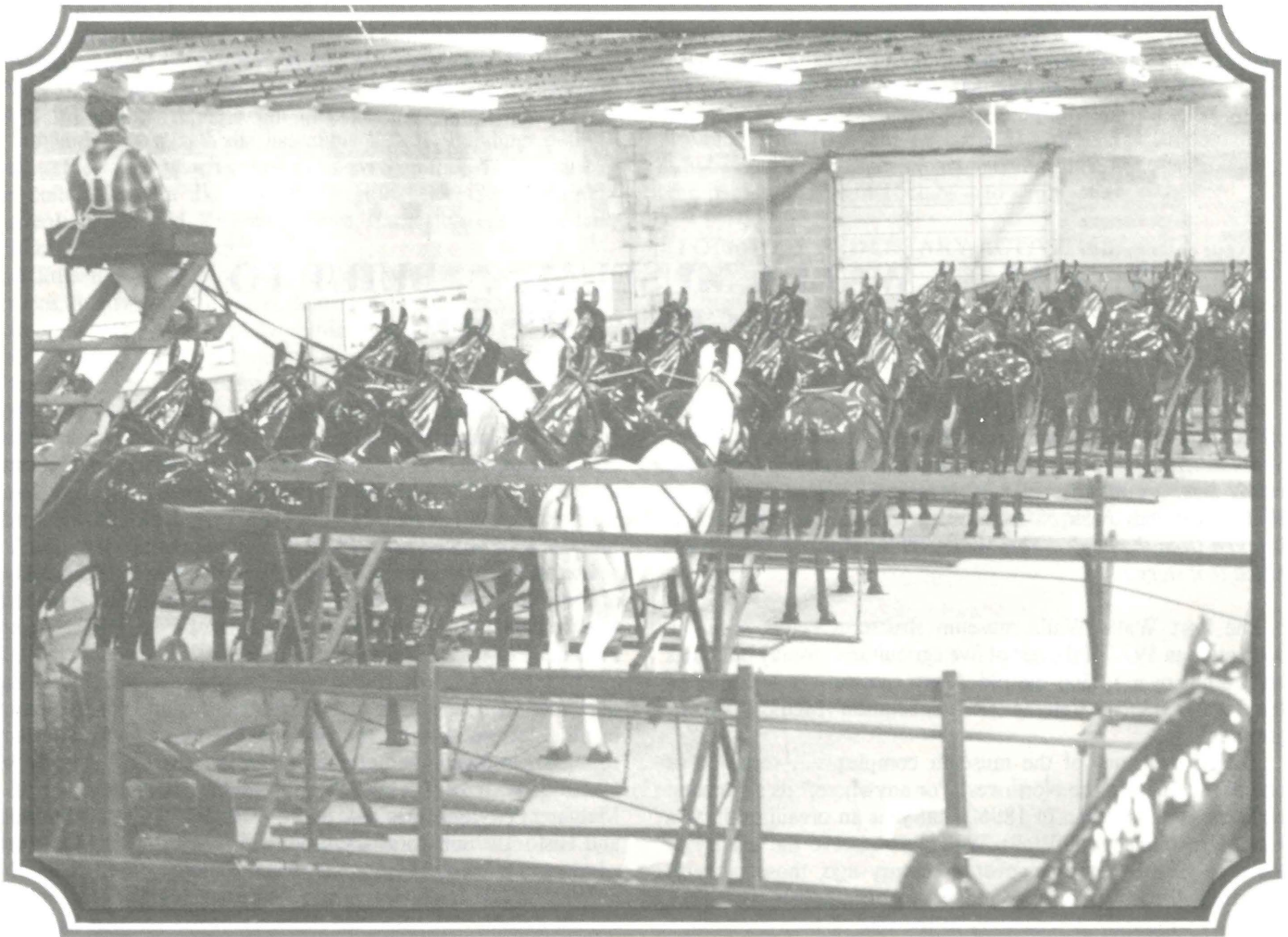
Penner next teamed up with J. J. Laughlin, retired Walla Walla police officer and also a member of a pioneer family here, to gather up more material and to forge the first displays at the museum. By far the most impressive of the displays is

the 33-mule hitch of Fiberglas animals hitched to a combine in one of the five ag buildings on the hill. Many other implements also draw plaudits of visitors.

Besides the five ag buildings, the museum complex also features a collection of pioneer buildings, both original and replica, in the “Pioneer Village” on the cemetery level below the ag structures. From the hilltop to the village, visitors may wend their way over stepping stones on pathways dedicated to the hard- working Penner and Laughlin. Sales of the stones to patrons represent a source of revenue for the museum’s operations. A gift shop is found at the conclusion of a tour of the sizable collection of Walla Walla area relics.

The museum complex is open during the summer months, usually from May 1 to Oct. 1 with admission charged. For several years, the museum complex has been a stop for the Columbia-Snake River excursions as well as a springtime series of tours by grade school children from an area 100 miles around Walla Walla.

The museum, operated as a major share of the overall programs sponsored by the Walla Walla Valley Pioneer and Historical Society, has been under the charge of a professional director since 1985. The museum has increasingly added to its displays and summer events to make it an important attraction each year to local residents as well as visitors to Walla Walla. Most recent display installed (in 1988) is the reproduction of old “bucket” cells used in the state penitentiary when it was built here in the late 1880s.



33 MULE HITCH . . . They are made of Fiberglass, but draw many visitors to the Fort Walla Walla Museum Complex.

BRUCE MANSION NOW MAJOR WAITSBURG ATTRACTION



BRUCE MANSION . . . the 1880s preserved in Waitsburg
(courtesy The Times, Waitsburg)

The century old home of a pioneer Waitsburg family . . . the Bruce Mansion . . . has taken its place as a prime historic attraction of Southeastern Washington.

Entering this old house is like stepping back into the 1880s as each room has been fully restored to that period. Built in 1883 by William and Caroline Bruce and acquired in 1971 from the Fanny Weller estate by the Waitsburg Historical Society, the home has been preserved through much work by volunteers of the society.

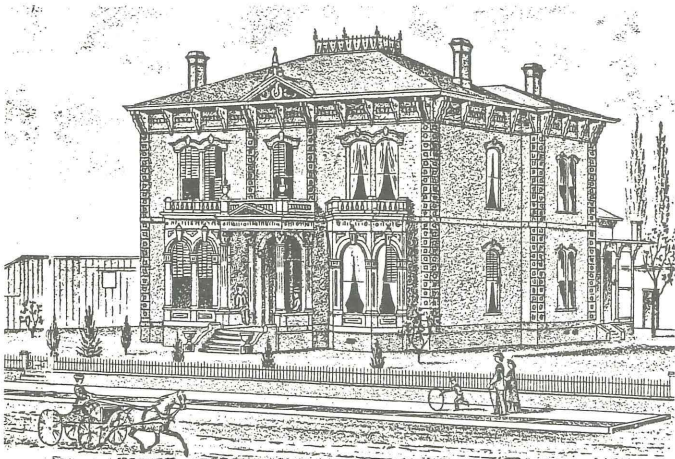
"All restoration has been done without the use of public funds" is a line in the museum's brochure that is of much pride to society members.

As she guided a group through the several rooms, curator Roberta Broom commented "it took a lot of sweat for a lot of people to put this in shape." And, not in a few months' time, either. The result is something well worth the time of anyone and should be included some day to "get the hang" of how your ancestors lived.

The house is open Friday and Saturday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the summer, but tours can be arranged by calling Roberta Broom or Jan Zuger of the society board.

The society has been given rights to the old Preston-Shaffer Milling Co.'s flour mill in Waitsburg and have begun a restoration effort on it. The mill dates to 1865 when first portions of it were built by pioneer Southeastern Washington miller, Sylvester Wait, for whom Waitsburg is named.

KIRKMAN HOUSE . . . STEP INTO THE PAST . . . HOME OF THE 1880s



THE WILLIAM KIRKMAN RESIDENCE . . . drawn in 1882 for F.T. Gilbert's "Historic Sketches."

Kirkman House, the restored home of Walla Walla cattle and wheat baron William Kirkman, is an authentic example of the luxurious 1880s architecture in the Pacific Northwest.

Home to three generations of Kirkmans and then given to Whitman College for use as a freshman boys' dorm, the stately mansion at 214 N. Colville St., has been undergoing extensive restoration since its purchase by the Historical Architecture Development Corporation in 1977. Organized in 1974 to help

protect Walla Walla's great heritage for present and future generations, HAD has accomplished much in the goal of restoring the imposing brick structure to its original splendor.

The library-office has been handsomely restored in natural oak paneling, pale blue plush carpet, and ceiling-high bookshelves. A lighted portrait of the home's builder, William Kirkman, adorns the fireplace, lending quiet dignity to the room.

Kirkman was an English adventurer and entrepreneur who settled in Walla Walla in 1871 to make his fortune in wheat farming and cattle ranching. Kirkman played an important role in the development of his adopted city, serving on the city council and the board of trustees of Whitman College.

The serving room upstairs is wallpapered in the original design, "Walla Walla Stripe," recreated by the Thibault Wallpaper Co. The design was chosen with 10 others in a Thibault historic wallpaper contest and now is part of the Historic House Association of America collection.

The Kirkman House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Besides being the most historic home in Walla Walla, it is considered "a unique example of period architecture in the Northwest" by the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The massive and sumptuous brick house must have been something of a sensation in the rough and tumble of 19th century Walla Walla!

The sponsors of Kirkman House request a donation from adults touring the house. There is no charge for children. Operations and maintenance of the beautiful historic site depend upon donations, gifts, memorials and volunteer labor.

WALLA WALLA A "FAIR TOWN" FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY



FRONTIER DAYS RODEO STARS . . . circa 1913—take plaudits of Walla Walla crowd. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

(A lot of history about Walla Walla was found in the 1966 SE Washington Fair program, which observed "100 Years of Walla Walla and the Southeastern Washington Fair." It is from the program that the following material was gleaned, courtesy of fair manager, Frank O'Leary.)

Testifying to its age and rating as the oldest fair in the state, Walla Walla observed the Centennial of its fairs in 1966.

Today, the Southeastern Washington Fair continues to be recognized throughout the Northwest as one of the most complete fairs presented. The Labor Day weekend fair and night rodeo has long been a "must see" event as summer vacations run down.

Some of the historical highlights along the way from earliest fair beginnings were:

1866 — On July 9th the Walla Walla Agricultural Society was first organized, with H. P. Isaacs as president. Walla Walla's first fair was held Oct. 4, 5, 6, in conjunction with the annual horse race meeting.

1870 — First annual fair held by the Washington Territory Agricultural, Manufacturing and Art Fostering Society. 1874 — First annual fair of the Walla Walla County Agricultural Society was held at C. S. Bush's fairgrounds and trotting park near Walla Walla (East Alder Street of today) from Oct. 26, continuing five days. Frank Lowden was president.

1886 — The Walla Walla Agricultural Society and the Driving Park Association joined forces under the name of the Walla Walla Valley Consolidated Agricultural Society. The first annual fair was held Oct. 9-13.

18987 — The Fruit Growers Association was formed with Dr. N. G. Blalock as president. The first display was held in the courthouse.

1903 — The Walla Walla Race Track Association was formed with Judge Thomas H. Brents, chairman. This later became known as the Walla Walla County Fair Association.

1913 -- The "wild and woolly" Frontier Days Rodeo began. it became one of the best known shows in the early days. The show featured buffalo and bear roping in the arena, as well as dangerous chariot races.

1922 — Frontier Days came to a halt and the directors of the Fair decided to have the "old time country fair" and to do away with the "round up features." There were harness races every day on the track, vaudeville attractions and a carnival.

1923 — In the fall, the county decided to buy the present grounds.

1923-24 — These were the years of the pageant, "How the West Was Won," presented at the fairgrounds.

1936 — The first Southeastern Washington Fair, featuring the Monte Brooks Vaudeville Show. This is the year the Wagon Wheelers began, as did a women's auxiliary, the Spinning Wheelers, both organized to promote the Centennial Year of the coming of the Whitmans.

1938 — The first, complete, lighted night rodeo was held. Previously, the rodeo was held in conjunction with horse races in the afternoon.

1942-45 — During World War II events were canceled to conserve essential war commodities. German prisoners of war were housed at the pavilion in 1944 and 1945. While no fair was held in 1945, a 3-day rodeo was held Sept. 1, 2, 3 and Aug. 31.

1965 — This was the first year for science education exhibits. This was also the first year of Washington State licensed horse racing in Walla Walla.

DEVELOPMENT OF WHITMAN MISSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

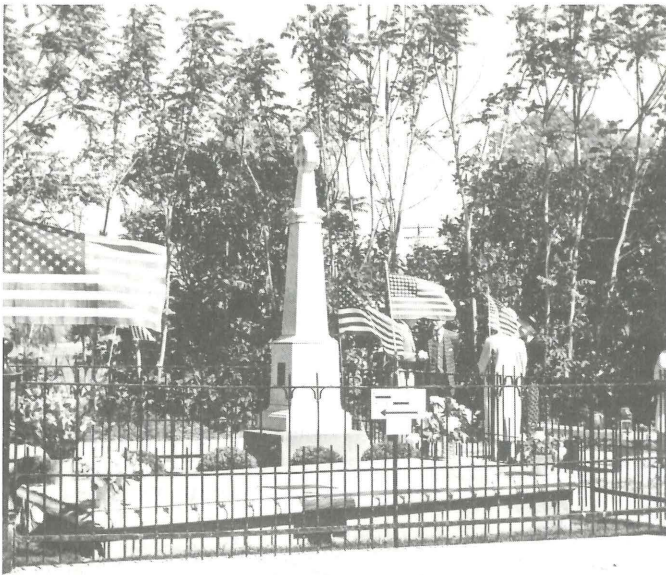
By JENNIFER CRABTREE

(The development of the site of the (1836-47) mission of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman into one of the finest historic attractions of the Northwest was a major event during the past three decades. To tell of this development we have asked Jennifer Crabtree, who has done extensive research on the subject for the National Park Service, to prepare the following material. We are indebted to Ms. Crabtree for her assistance.)

"Nearly Fifty Years with the National Park Service:
Whitman Mission National Historic Site"

Marcus and Narcissa Whitman would surely be surprised and delighted if they came back to view their Waiilatpu Mission today. In 1940 the National Park Service officially established Whitman National Monument and since then has remained dedicated to preserving this site for us all. Although, as we shall see, managing Whitman Mission was not always an easy task.

Whitman National Monument was only 13 years old when the "Walla Walla Story" was first published in 1953, and the National Park Service had done little to manage the grounds after Archaeologist-Custodian Tom Garth excavated the mission



THE GREAT GRAVE . . . at Whitman Mission National Historic Site, center of annual memorial services for the Whitmans.

from 1941 to 1950.

Merely half the size of today, the Monument's 45 acres included the excavated mission site, the Great Grave, and shaft hill. The only building was the "temporary" museum, originally designed by Garth to store artifacts but used "temporarily" as a museum for the next 20 years.

An unpaved county road (currently the reconstructed Oregon Trail) divided the Monument in half, so visitors either parked on the road and walked to the mission site or drove to the grave site and up shaft hill for the view. Surprisingly, very few visitors to the Monument visited the mission site, itself. They assumed the name "Whitman National Monument" referred to the memorial shaft on the hill and therefor drove up to the shaft without ever venturing down to the actual mission site.

Bob Weldon, the Monument's first superintendent (1950-56) made every effort to alleviate this problem by landscaping and erecting interpretive signs. Although superintendents are not normally found weeding and mowing in their parks, as the only full time employee, that is exactly where visitors were likely to find Weldon; in his own words: "... getting the better of the tall, obnoxious weedy patches which caused so much bad comment."

With the help of part time caretaker Merlin Warner, Weldon installed interpretive signs, marked the mission building sites with boards and gravel, and planted apple trees to simulate the Whitmans' apple orchard. Although modest improvement by today's standards, there was more to see at Whitman National Monument in 1955 than ever before.

In spite of Supt. Weldon's hard work, the Monument did not develop fast enough to satisfy Park Service personnel or Walla Walla citizens. Other than the tiny 20 foot by 14 foot adobe museum there was no visitor center, no utility building and no administrative offices. A common problem after World War II, most National Parks suffered from lack of funds, manpower and supplies and Whitman Mission was certainly no exception.

In response to this nation-wide problem Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, initiated a 10-year recovery program called "Mission 66," designed to improve National Park facilities by 1966.

The Mission 66 funding and direction resulted in a flurry of development at Whitman Mission that spanned eight years

and resulted in the park we see today.

Whitman National Monument's Mission 66 program began in earnest in 1958 after the U.S. Congress authorized the purchase of 50 additional acres for the site. Two years later, the National Park Service purchased Glen Frazier's 46-acre farm, northwest of shaft hill, which not only doubled the park's size but provided a location for the new buildings that did not disturb the historic setting.

For the next four years, Supt. William "Joe" Kennedy (1956-64) oversaw each Mission 66 project, beginning with the 1960-61 search for Whitman's blacksmith shop and Alice Clarissa Whitman's grave. Although archaeologist Paul Schumacher did not find conclusive evidence of either site, his assurance that Alice's grave did not lie north of the mission convinced Walla Walla County Engineer B. Loyal Smith and others that it was safe to proceed with the new entrance road. Constructed in 1963, the new road from U.S. Highway 12 replaced the need for the old county road which was converted to the Oregon Trail (reconstruction) that same year.

The most noticeable results of the Mission 66 program are the buildings still serving visitors and National Park staff today. Built by Walla Walla contractor, Edward Mardis, in 1963 and dedicated in 1964, the visitor center, utility building and employee residence still provide much needed management facilities. The plush new visitor center housed an audio-visual room and new museum complex with miniature diorama of the "Whitman Massacre."

In addition, the visitor center provided more satisfactory administrative offices than the house trailer or old farm house, used from 1957-61 and 1962, respectively. Finally, the employee residence provided more protection for park resources after hours. After slight and major remodeling during Supt. Bob Amdor's administration (1980-87), these mission 66-sponsored buildings



MONUMENT TO THE WHITMANS . . . towers over the grounds of the Whitman Mission National Historic Site, seven miles west of Walla Walla.

continue to meet visitor and employee needs alike.

The only non-Mission 66 accomplishments of 1963 occurred due to the perseverance of the Marcus Whitman Foundation (Walla Walla citizens organization). On January 1, 1963, the name Whitman National Monument was officially changed to Whitman Mission National Historic Site. This name change effectively solved an ongoing misunderstanding by clarifying that Whitman Mission commemorates a mission site, not a memorial shaft.

The changes at Whitman Mission since the successful Mission 66 program reflect a new emphasis on programs for the public. During Supt. Ray Stickler's administration (1965-71) park rangers developed slide programs on special topics like Environmental Awareness.

During the 1970s, Chief Park Interpreter Larry Waldron and Supt. Stan Kowalkowski (1971-80) introduced "cultural demonstrations" in which park rangers dress in pioneer clothing and demonstrate pioneer skills such as wool-spinning or soap-making. They did not limit cultural demonstrations to pioneer skills but included Native American crafts as well. Since 1980 Native American park rangers regularly demonstrate tule mat-making and beading arts along with the pioneer crafts.

Since 1972 the pioneer and Indian cultural demonstrations remain the backbone of the summer interpretive programs at the mission.

In addition to cultural demonstrations, Waldron and Kowalkowski responded to the 1970s growing awareness of minority rights by re-evaluating the way in which the Whitman story was presented to the public. Out of this has come the ongoing attempt on the part of the Park service to tell the public more about the Cayuse people and how they were effected by the Whitmans and the emigrants. The completely remodeled museum portrays more than ever the lifestyle and culture of the Cayuse people. From 45 untamed acres managed by one man to 98 acres managed by nine employees, Whitman Mission changed drastically over 49 years as a National site. Park facilities improved from just one tiny adobe museum to include three buildings, paved trails, interpretive signs and picnic facilities.

Progress continues today. The current administration headed by Supt. Dave Herrera, who came here in 1987, is actively pursuing a revegetation program designed to re-introduce native grasses into the park, particularly rye grass from which Waiilatpu gets its name.

As the site improves, so does public support. Visitation increased steadily from approximately 5,000 annually after WWII to an average visitation of 115,000 per year today. This growing public support reflects that one thing has not changed since 1940 — the National Park Service's commitment to manage Whitman Mission National Historic Site "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States."

COLLEGE MUSEUM A "TREASURE CHEST" OF HISTORY

(The following is provided courtesy of Lenel Smith, news service officer, Whitman College office of communications.)

The Whitman College Museum of Man and Nature in the Pacific Northwest, housed in Maxey Hall, is a treasure chest of historical artifacts.

The museum's main collection of rare Indian artifacts originated with Myron Eells. Eells, the younger son of Whitman College founder, Cushing Eells, served as a missionary to the Indians of the Skokomish Reservation on Puget Sound for 33 years during the late 1800s, collecting items from that and earlier eras. Wood, bone and stone tools make up the earlier acquisitions, while a knife made from a file shows the effect the white man's civilization was beginning to have on Indian civilization during Eells' time.

The extensive collection includes many items made of wood, including hats, a baby cradle, fishline buoys, gaff hooks, harpoons and canoe paddles. Tools, clothing and ceremonial articles make up some of the rest of the exhibit.

The entire collection is enhanced by Eells' notebooks and diaries which give historical background on many of the items. These irreplaceable documents are stored in Penrose Library's archives in temperature- and humidity-controlled fireproof vaults,

but most were reproduced in "The Indians of Puget Sound," a book edited by museum curator, George Castile, professor of anthropology at Whitman.

The college acquired Eells' personal collection of artifacts, notebooks, diaries, maps, photographs and drawings after his death in 1907, as a gift from Eells' widow. For many years the college had no proper place to display it, but the addition of Maxey Hall, dedicated in 1977, made possible the space needed for a museum and the Eells collection was added to other historical artifacts to form the current Museum of Man and Nature in the Pacific Northwest.

The museum now houses, in addition to the Eells collection, artifacts from Inland Plateau (Walla Walla-area) Indians and "a fair amount of Pioneer early Americana" from the Northwest, including a display on the "Chinese in Walla Walla," according to Castile. Some materials from the Pacific Rim nations of Japan, China and the Philippines are also on display.

The museum is open only during the academic year. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Large groups wishing to view the museum are encouraged to call ahead and notify the museum staff so additional guides can be available. For more information, the museum phone number is (509) 527-5294.

CITY LIBRARY ALWAYS A MAJOR ASSET HERE

"The Walla Walla City Library, dedicated Dec. 13, 1905, on ground donated by T. C. Elliott and built with the aid of funds from Andrew Carnegie, has over 35,000 volumes . . ."

From this stature, as cited from the 1953 *Walla Walla Story*, the city's library has continued to fulfill a role of many years as one of the community's major cultural assets.

When the Carnegie-endowed building (at Palouse and the junction of Alder and Poplar streets) became too small, action started in the 1960s to gain a larger facility. In 1970 Walla Walla got a new library on Alder Street and Colville largely as the result of a construction plan proposed by Walla Walla businessman, Donald Sherwood, owner of the property. Besides this help, Virginia and Donald Sherwood contributed a gift of \$75,000 for furnishings and equipment as a memorial to long time Union-Bulletin publisher, John G. Kelly.

The former library structure is now the home of Carnegie Art Center.

There are now some 78,000 volumes available to the public in the library, besides many offerings of films, cassette tape and disk recordings, computer software programs and paintings.

WIDE RADIO-TELEVISION SELECTION HERE

Walla Walla had only radio in 1953 and only two stations. Today, there are several stations, plus television, the electronics marvel which was barely emerging from the airwaves 35 years ago.

Walla Walla's first radio station was KOWW, owned and operated by Frank A. Moore, Inc. Established in 1922, it continued until July, 1927. Station KUJ was established in 1928. Station KTEL was established in 1946 as KWWB, adopting the current call letters in 1952.

Radio stations today have not only proliferated, they are of different types. Besides the standard AM frequency stations of 35 years ago, now there is FM and FM stereo sound presentations which are heard locally. Stations beamed from the Walla Walla Valley include: KAFR, KEXI-FM, KGTS-FM, KTEL, KUJ and KWHT-FM. Several others, of course, are heard from nearby cities.

Walla Walla has no television channels based here but many are received through cable television or roof-mounted antennas. Four channels (19-25-31-42) are reached with an antenna to the West. These channels, plus selected Spokane and Portland channels, are received through an antenna beamed to the southwest to pick up the offerings of Citizens TV, "honor system" translator from Baskett Mountain.

Cable television is provided by Cooke Cablevision for a monthly fee, providing 32 channels.

LITTLE THEATER HAS PROVEN BIG HIT WITH COMMUNITY

Little Theater of Walla Walla has been a viable part of this community since World War II times, when the group was formed here.

It was on the occasion of the group's 40th anniversary, that Thoomas Howells, one of four charter members gathering at the time, recalled the 1944 beginnings.

"It was wartime . . . here was a chance to do something for the community (while fulfilling a desire to maintain local military morale)."

Howells recalled:

"A cast started to work up a production of Mark Reed's 'Yes, My Darling Daughter,' under the direction of Dr. Paul Jackson of Whitman College. The director and his cast knew only at the time that a performance of the play was wanted at the Walla Walla Army Air Base. The performance in July of 1944, before some 800 air base personnel, was the beginning of Little Theater. A second performance of this play was staged at McCaw Military Hospital later in the month."

In September, the group of 30 decided to incorporate, and pay "rather substantial first-year dues for people of modest mean," in order to get the theater launched, Howells said.

He credited Paul Jackson with having been the guiding spirit of the group.

"Paul was the one who convinced me I could direct a play," Howells said. Jackson, who was producing director in the theater's first two years, also had the honor of being the first on record to pay Little Theater membership dues.

Before a theater building could be found, though, the group had already arranged to present six performances of "Yes, My Darling Daughter" in the ballroom of the Marcus Whitman Hotel.

Between Oct. 28, when the first play's run had closed and Dec. 1, when "The War Horse" opened in rented quarters at 23½ E. Main St., some 50 volunteers constructed a stage, built the backstage control panel and installed special lighting effects.

The temporary theater on Main Street seated 100 on borrowed park benches, and actors and audience were kept warm by the heat from a coal stove in the middle of the room.

It was the group's commitment to professionalism that spurred its members' hopes of some day having a theater building of their own, one that would be a kind of civic center for the dramatic arts.

This became a reality in February 1948, when Little Theater bought the building that is its current home at 1130 E. Sumach St. It had originally been built as an American Legion club house.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER VITAL TO ELDERLY



WALLA WALLA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

(The following material is provided courtesy of Karen Powers, Executive Director, the Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center.)

The Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center, at 720 Sprague St. (adjoining Jefferson Park), is a multi-purpose community facility in which older persons may fulfill many of their social, physical and intellectual needs.

It is a place that affords older people unique opportunities to create a special community of their own without isolating themselves from the rest of the community.

At the Center are many people, ideas, services and resources which help to bridge the senior community to the community at large.

Some of the many services and resources offered include Information and Assistance, Home-delivered Meals, Dial-A-Ride Transportation, Foot Care and numerous educational and recreational opportunities.

Information and Assistance is available to aid seniors with problems and concerns and to connect them with community services. Two case managers are available for extensive assistance as is a bilingual case aide. A telephone screener is also available

to aid seniors who need information about, or referrals for, services such as housekeeping, day care, yard work, legal and insurance counseling, Adult Family Homes and many other areas.

Congregate meals are served Monday through Friday for all senior citizens. Meals are flavorful, colorful, low in fats and sodium and provide one-third of the recommended daily allowance of nutrients. In addition, home-bound seniors who have no other means of support to prepare meals are eligible for Home Delivered Meals. These meals are delivered hot at lunch and frozen for supper and weekends when required, up to seven days per week.

Dial-A-Ride is a transportation program which is equipped with four vans, some of which have wheelchair lifts. It is available to provide service to seniors and handicapped. Transportation can be given anywhere within the city limits of Walla Walla or College Place, Monday through Friday, given 24 hours advance notice.

Foot Care Services are supervised by a local podiatrist and are held at eight different sites throughout the community. The Center's trained staff conducts a foot inspection and palpitation, foot soak, nail trim and instructions on foot health maintenance. If certain conditions exist, such as diabetes, circulatory disorders or post orthopedic surgery, a surgeon's release is required.

The Senior Center also works hand in hand with Walla Walla Community College to provide a wide variety of classes to Seniors. Selections offered presently include Spanish, oil and water color painting, quilting, tole and china painting, creative sewing and the highly popular aerobics. These classes run on the same quarter system as the college and are available for a nominal fee.

In addition to these many services, there are also numerous opportunities available to promote satisfactory recreation and constructive use of leisure time. There are bridge and pinochle games held several times weekly. There is a lounge where seniors drop in to play pool, cards or just relax. Other activities include dances, old time music and fund raising breakfast suppers.

CONCERN FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN LONG-TIME YWCA PURPOSE

(The following article is supplied courtesy of Peggy N. Beaulaurier, director of the Walla Walla Young Women's Christian Association, 213 S. First Ave.)

Concern for the unsafe living conditions of young women in the city of Walla Walla in 1916 resulted in community leaders renting rooms in the Drumheller Building.

This program to serve young girls and young business and professional women was staffed by volunteers. In 1917, the YWCA of Walla Walla was incorporated and the first paid executive secretary was hired.

Rooms were filled to capacity but the crowded and cramped conditions were relieved when Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Elliott presented the YWCA with rooms at the Palace Hotel. There were residence rooms and meeting rooms for club meetings and classes. When the paid secretary was called away by family illness in 1918, Mary Penrose and Carrie Reynolds took charge.

Mary was in charge of office and management and Carrie worked with the young women. By 1919 a full complement of staff was employed, consisting of a director, a girls' worker and a house mother.

In 1939 the Walla Walla Parks and Civic Arts Club donated a lot at First and Birch streets to the YWCA and the present building was constructed in 1950.

The purpose of the YWCA of 1988 is virtually the same as in 1917. The concern continues to be for women, children and families and the organization continues to provide housing for women. Residence clients are working women, women in transition, women who are out-patients at the local hospitals and family members visiting a patient at one of the hospitals. In addition to the traditional client, the present board of directors is committed to providing housing for women, and women and their children who are victims of domestic violence.

Thanks to a gift from the Eugene Tausick estate, the YWCA

built the Ice Chalet in 1965. Lessons in ice skating are available as well as hockey and figure skating opportunities. School children from elementary grades through college age take advantage of classes. The ice rink provides ice time for special interest groups such as emotionally disturbed children and children with special mental or physical needs.

With more and more women entering the work force child care has become a YWCA board priority. The YWCA has provided after school care for children since 1980. In 1987 the need for infant care through the age of six was addressed by the opening of the child-care center, "My Friend's House." Children enrolled in child-care programs at the YWCA have the opportunity to participate in the classes that are available

such as ice skating, tumbling and dance.

Traditional classes provide enrichment for the Walla Walla community. At the present time, the YWCA is providing more than 50 health or exercise programs including dance, aerobics and tumbling. In addition, language, cooking, sewing, self esteem building and many other enrichment programs are available.

The YWCA, at the national convention in 1988, adopted as core programs the themes of empowerment for women, health promotion, family life, youth development and community leadership.

Current program themes are variations of, but integral to, original goals of the first YWCA of Walla Walla in 1917.

YMCA IS MAJOR ASSET TO COMMUNITY'S YOUTH AND ADULTS

(The following is from a book, "People, All Kinds," written by Walla Walla author, Robert Bennett, for the YMCA on the occasion of the Y's Centennial year of 1986.)

The new YMCA building, the current structure on South Palouse Avenue, opened in March of 1979 on grounds for many years the home of Walla Walla High School. It consisted of two gymnasiums, four racquetball courts, a six-lane pool, game room, four locker rooms and a one-acre playground.

The facilities, the culmination of a \$2 million drive by leaders of the community, replaced the old building on Spokane Street, recreation center so many years for the youth of the city.

The book heralded the extensive influence the Y had had on the town's youth in its 100 years, how the athletic teams had gained not only local and regional achievements but had also gone to national heights. It was a century of truly great accomplishments under such executive directors as the late F. D. Applegate and Don Monahan, the terms of which spanned most of those 100 years.

Under the new executive director, Ned Shafer ("product of the Applegate-Monahan era," said Bennett) the new facilities "came alive" as Y board president, Dr. Don Roser had predicted in dedication ceremonies.

Since the opening of the new Y, a significantly greater number of Walla Wallans have become involved in the various YMCA programs and activities . . . particularly the youth.

You wonder the impact of the YMCA? Here's a statement

about a typical summer day at the Y from Shafer:

"It starts as early as 6 a.m. with some of the high school and college working youth making use of the extensive weight training center. Then, around 9 a.m., youngsters of all ages begin arriving for swim lessons, which will continue throughout the day and evening. Shortly after that gymnastics begins for youths 4 to 12. At mid-morning 40 boys and girls ages 6 to 11 gather for the traditional day-long Superstars program, participating in a variety of outdoor and indoor activities. In the early afternoon, the basketball skills camps are conducted by our local high school coaches for elementary and junior youth. Later in the afternoon, comes open swim for both the youngsters involved throughout the day at the Y and those arriving just for a swim. It's now near dinner . . . but things are just getting started with the basketball league play for junior high, high school and college age youth beginning at 6 p.m. and running until near midnight. And, interspersed among all of these evening activities are weight training clinics, recreational swims and outdoor volleyball competition.

"How many kids are involved? Well, we'll average over 500 kids per day during the summer. Thus, there is no doubt that the YMCA is the center of activity for our Walla Walla youth . . . both in the summer and throughout the year."

The Walla Walla YMCA also enjoys patronage of many adults, including a good number of retired persons, who take part in programs offered at the Y.

WALLA WALLA'S SYMPHONY ONE OF THE OLDEST ON COAST

(The following material is from an article which appeared in the 1985 Union-Bulletin "Feature" Edition.)

When Walla Walla businessman Oliver M. Beatty heard a group of amateur musicians perform while he was on a trip to Boise, Idaho, in 1906, he returned home, wondering "Why not in Walla Walla?"

According to a Dec. 12, 1932, Bulletin newspaper article commemorating the Walla Walla Symphony's silver anniversary, Beatty "became enthusiastic over the possibilities for a similar organization in Walla Walla, where musicians and music schools

abounded."

Others, like Grace Isaacs and Edgar Fischer, agreed. By July 1, 1907, a core group of symphony enthusiasts had formed the Walla Walla Symphony Club, and held their first meeting. Frank Paine presided. Isaacs was named chairman of the program committee. Fischer was elected leader of the Symphony orchestra.

After months of preparation, the group was ready to present its first symphony concert on Dec. 12, 1907. The newspaper reported the next day that "more than one hundred persons" turned out, despite inclement weather.

That first concert took place at the Keylor Grand Theater,

built in 1905, at Fourth Avenue and Alder Street. According to a 1976 Union-Bulletin article by Frances Farris, the orchestra consisted of 29 players.

She also cited Fischer's description, in 1908, of a symphony orchestra. It was, Fischer said, "a means of conveying the thoughts of the great composers . . . we have the modern symphony orchestra, a mighty instrument with unlimited resources of color and intensity at its command, capable of the most delicate variances, and of the most tremendous emphasis."

The Walla Walla Symphony was in exclusive company in those early days. By 1914, Ferris wrote, there were only 17

symphony orchestras in the United States and 10 of them were in metropolitan centers.

Throughout its history, the symphony had three home bases. It performed at the Keylor Grand for more than 25 years, then moved its concerts to Lacey Auditorium in the old Walla Walla High School, where it performed until the late 1930s. Since 1968, it has been performing at Whitman College's Cordiner Hall.

The symphony's history, titled, "Bringing the World's Best Music," by Thomas Howells and Mary A. Bailey, traces many of the symphony's key supporters and personnel.

FORMER CARNEGIE LIBRARY ADDRESSES LOCAL ART APPRECIATION



CARNEGIE ART CENTER

(The following is provided courtesy Christine Bishop, director, Carnegie Art Center, 109 S. Palouse St.)

The Carnegie Art Center is an example of the appropriate "recycling" of an old building where the physical facility melds beautifully with new functions.

When the City of Walla Walla announced the availability of the old Carnegie Library building (built in 1905) and sought ideas for its use, the Carnegie founders saw their chance to address the art appreciation needs of the community.

A cross-section of citizens, formed from Walla Walla Art Club, Allied Arts Council, Art Unlimited and other interested individuals, submitted plans to the city council for the use of the Carnegie building as an art center. The city council accepted the proposal and granted Carnegie Center Corporation a long

term lease.

This group of dedicated volunteers raised \$13,000 in pledges to renovate the building. Efforts were made during the remodeling to preserve the integrity of the design of the building, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

On Oct. 6, 1971, Carnegie Art Center opened its doors to the community.

During its 17 years of operation, Carnegie Art Center has developed a number of programs to meet the art needs of the community through the efforts of the board of directors, the part-time paid director, and the volunteer staff.

Ten to 11 art shows in all art media are planned each year in the Exhibition Gallery. A juried art show each year gives amateur and professional artists within the region the opportunity to submit works for possible inclusion in the group show. Art work is available for sale in the rental/sales gallery and gift shop.

Large groups of school children visit the Center annually to view a special children's show, sponsored by the docents, who conduct tours of the Center, attend art education programs and provide art appreciation to Walla Walla-area schools.

Carnegie Art Center remains the community art center. As such, Carnegie sees its role in encouraging local and regional artists to exhibit, offering an art show of national significance each year and fostering art appreciation in children through exhibits, tours and classes.

Carnegie Art Center has established a firm foundation in the community and its contributions to the community will continue to grow.

WALLA WALLA PARKS VITAL TO THE COMMUNITY

(The following article concerning Walla Walla city parks represents an extensive updating of the material used in the 1953 edition. Material about Walla Walla parks is presented through cooperation of Mike A. Petersen, director, Walla Walla City Parks and Recreation Department.)

From its beginning, The City of Walla Walla has been concerned with parks for its people.

Those concerns took shape prior to the close of the 19th century with purchase of lands for the start of a park system.

The city's park system originated on March 5, 1901, when the city council declared that land it had purchased in 1899 would be set aside, improved and maintained as the future Pioneer

Park.

John C. Olmstead, of the famous New York firm of Olmstead Brothers, Landscape Architects, was invited to Walla Walla in 1906 to examine the city and his report greatly influenced the establishment of later parks and the general design of Pioneer Park.

John Langdon, a talented and civic-minded Walla Wallan, has been credited with the final park design while a new women's organization, the Parks and Civic Arts Club, secured material, labor and funds for development of all the early parks. They also saw to their upkeep and ran recreation programs until the city, in 1941, agreed to assume the responsibility.

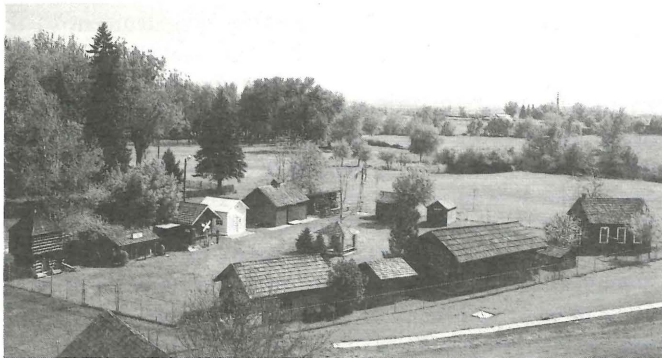
Pioneer Park was formally opened Sept. 6, 1908, a 43-acre

tract on which had once been the reservoir for the city's early water supply. Mounds on the Division Street side (a great sledding spot in winter!) are evidence of the reservoir. Total acreage of the park at Alder and Division is now 58.2 acres. Principal facilities and attractions include children's play equipment, tables, barbecue, picnic shelter, restrooms, parking, Little League field, soccer field, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, volleyball, swimming pool, streams, ponds, Garden Center building, aviary, flower gardens, gazebo and bicycle trail.

We enjoy the 360 acres of parks we have today thanks to the pioneers of Walla Walla who had the foresight to dedicate these parcels of land.

Other parks in the city's program include the following (with acreage and location in parentheses):

FORT WALLA WALLA PARK — Our largest park (208 acres — The Dalles Military Road and Myra Road) is more rustic in nature with hiking, wildlife viewing and camping activities available. Overnight camping is supervised by a full time caretaker and includes campsites, concessions, playground, both hookup and tent sites, showers and a dump station. A fee is charged. A large museum complex, historic military cemetery, and outdoor amphitheater are special features of this park.



PIONEER VILLAGE . . . at Fort Walla Walla Museum Complex, is major feature of facility on Myra Road.

MEMORIAL ATHLETIC COMPLEX — (17.5 acres — Sumach and Penrose) Softball, soccer and tennis under the lights make this the most intensely used park facility. Activities include tournaments, lessons and league play for young people and adults.

EASTGATE LIONS PARK — (11.8 acres — Wilbur and Tacoma) Adjacent to the Mill Creek bicycle trail (to Rooks Park, a Corps of Engineers facility) is an open park area used extensively by Little League baseball and soccer players.

EVERGREEN PARK — (1.1 acres — Roosevelt and Evergreen) A small playground and home for the Lillie Rice Center, an independently operated facility for handicapped adults, and the Lions Fieldhouse.

HOWARD-TIETAN PARK — (19.2 acres Howard and Tietan) This large facility features Pony League baseball diamonds and soccer fields, rolling terrain and a vista of the Blue Mountains.

JEFFERSON PARK — (8 acres — South Ninth and Malcolm) Natural and man-made water features, mature trees, locomotive engine and caboose display, and the Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center building highlight this park.

MENLO POOL AND PARK — (2 acres — Division and Portland) A mature landscape dominates this shaded playground and picnic area.

VISTA TERRACE PARK — (6.7 acre — Mountain Park Drive) This well landscaped young park provides a variety of activities such as tennis and play equipment.

WASHINGTON PARK — (9.3 acres — Ninth Ave. and Cherry) A community center building, large trees, and numerous activity areas provide a pleasant setting.

WILDWOOD PARK — (6.3 acres — Division and Boyer) One of the earliest parks, it contains many trees to shade the picnic areas and playground facilities.

Other recreation facilities operated by the City of Walla Walla include:

VETERANS MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE — Located next to the freeway bypass (US 12) at Rees Avenue, Memorial Golf Course (named in memory of all veterans of all U.S. wars) is one of the finest 18- hole, full-length, par 72 municipal courses in the state. Designed and maintained for the average hitter, the tree-lined fairways will provide plenty of variety and challenge. The facility also features a full service pro shop, restaurant and lounge.

BORLESKE STADIUM — Also located adjacent to the freeway, this 5-acre facility has a lighted football/baseball field, grandstands, restrooms, concessions, soccer field, running track and ample parking.

For further information about the parks of Walla Walla, contact the parks and recreation department at City Hall, 3rd and Rose, or telephone: (509) 527-4527.

Golfers will find, besides the fine Veterans Memorial Golf Course, one other golf course here and another in Milton-Freewater. Walla Walla Country Club was built in 1922 and as such is one of the Northwest's early courses. It is considered a very challenging 18-hole, par 72 course, located off South Plaza Way. The municipal course in Milton-Freewater was a 9-hole course for its first years, but is now expanded to include a "top of the hill" nine for an excellent 18-hole course, although it is not as lengthy as the two in Walla Walla.

Within a short drive of Walla Walla there are three ski areas, drawing the bulk of skiers from mid-November as a rule.

Nearest is the oldest, the former Spout Springs Ski Area on the Umatilla National Forest, on Oregon Highway 82. Now known as the "Spout Springs Fun Machine and Snow Co.," its owners are Ed Eaton, Merlin Timmerman and Carol Tinker of Milton-Freewater. Their goal is to create a year-round recreation facility.

Ski Bluewood, 53 miles from Walla Walla, is 23 miles south of Dayton and also on the Umatilla National Forest. Owner is Stan Goodell. This ski area is also the newest of the three but is maintaining a schedule of improvement for the present three lifts and 25 runs.

Anthony Lakes Ski Area on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, is 124 miles from Walla Walla and 22 miles west of North Powder, Ore., off Interstate 84. Opened in 1962, this resort offers skiing at 7,000 feet plus a host of beginners' packages.

For other types of outdoors recreation enjoyment, the Walla Walla area offers much for hiking or camping enthusiasts, back packers, anglers, hunters of upland game birds and big game animals and bird watchers. It's all right close or only a few minutes away.

A host of parks for many activities now line the shores of the Columbia and Snake rivers in this area, all built by the Corps of Engineers as reservoirs filled from the dams they built. Information concerning them may be secured by contacting the Walla Walla office of the Corps.

WHY WALLA WALLA?

(Here are some reasons for there being a Walla Walla; some historical reflections I put forth in a speech delivered in 1987. — Vance Orchard).

It has been said by newcomers and old residents alike...why is Walla Walla here? Why wasn't it located downriver, say, at Wallula or some similar, more logical place for a city?

I have heard it said: It isn't on the road to anywhere and you can't get anywhere from here. But, here it is — and I for one, am glad. And, I know for sure a whole lot of people are real happy they decided to put down roots here. I made that decision 35 years ago, feeling here was a great place to work, live, raise a family — all those things that go into a life — and I haven't been disappointed in any of the reasons. I suppose it had something to do with why thousands before me had made similar decisions about where to live.

Walla Walla is here because of the zeal of several people, no small part of which is the role played by a pair of doctors who share hefty roles in our historical heritage . . . Dr. Marcus Whitman and Dr. Dorsey Syng Baker.

But, let me go back to our beginnings as we seek to understand the answer to the question of why Walla Walla . . .

Of course, our roots go back some 8 to 10,000 years with first residents, but scientists are still putting the pieces together on that one and I'm not sure the residents then had so much zeal going as they had need of a cave and fire in the winter and making of weapons to bring down the bears, deer and elk which then roamed the flatlands around here.

I speak of those with pioneering zeal and the first of course had to be President Jefferson, a statesman of highest regard and a person with "a lot of irons in the fires" so to speak. He read a lot and in his readings and discussions with world leaders, he became instilled with the idea of the Northwest to the extent he was able to get up an expedition to explore it and to bring back proof of his beliefs in the greatness which lay out there. The 1804-06 Lewis and Clark expedition was the result, a saga which has no equal in the great stories of our nation's development. The journey through the trackless northwest was accomplished with the loss of only one life and that due to an appendectomy — something which now of course would have hardly delayed the journey for the patient. It was an expedition highly comparable with putting men on the moon in our own age — something which then must have seemed as fraught with danger.

Walla Walla County was touched by the Lewis and Clark party both on its westward route and on its way home. Descending from the Bitterroot Mountains late in the summer of 1805, the men constructed dugout canoes near Orofino, Idaho, and came down the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers to their wintering place at the mouth of the Columbia. Thus, they came down the Snake on our northern boundary, the Columbia on our western boundary and paused to make friends with the Walla Walla Indians. Coming home in the spring of 1806, they crossed the Columbia at what's now Wallula, set out across country until they struck the Touchet River, and then followed that stream to present Dayton before heading up Patit Creek and over the hills to the Tucannon.

Climbing out of that river, they parlayed with Indians at present Pomeroy, before heading on up and over the hills to come down on the Snake again near Clarkston to retrace their Bitterroot trails.

Yes, it was because of the zeal of Jefferson that the Great Northwest was opened and the United States' claim to it strengthened to the point where it was included within our boundaries. Why Jefferson was not honored with our state's name escapes me. In 1853 when Washington Territory was established and named, "Columbia" was suggested. This was rejected by a speech in Congress by a statesman who said: "We already have a District of Columbia and naming the new territory "Columbia" would only mean confusion. I'm not sure why naming it Washington ended the confusion, but at any rate we are "Washington" and Jefferson never got the honor.

It was close, though. A territory was proposed in Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington and be named Jefferson but the 1865 plan fell by the political wayside.

While there were published articles and books concerning the fabulous trek of Lewis and Clark, nothing ignited the zeal of anyone until four Indians came East to St. Louis 25 years later. Their visit with Clark was described (maybe with some license by the penman, I understand) in a letter to friends in New England. This was printed in a religious journal and the zeal was ignited to head West to bring enlightenment to the Indian (supposedly seeking the white man's religion).

Nobody had more of this zeal than did the young doctor Whitman, whose zeal and experiences of 1835 made him the logical leader of the missionary party of 1836. This party was made up of Marcus and his bride of that year, Narcissa Prentiss, another newly wed couple, the Rev. H. H. Spalding and wife, Eliza, and William H. Gray. The year before, Marcus had come West with Rev. Samuel Parker as far as the Fur Rendezvous of trappers in Wyoming. The doctor made his mark with the rough trappers and many of the Indians as well. This religious man of New England who was not "one of them," was not in high favor with the trappers until cholera broke out among them and Whitman's skills prevented disaster. His surgery further won them over when, at the rendezvous, Marcus removed a 3-inch iron arrowhead from the back of a famous mountain man, Jim Bridger, under the watchful eyes of traders, mountain men and Indians. From this experience Parker and Whitman learned the Nez Perce and Flatheads truly were anxious to have the white man's missions among them. Whitman returned East and the 1836 party was formed.

And so, the zeal of a young doctor turned medical missionary was joined with the zeal of a young woman, who, although reared in a comfortable New England home, was determined to come West. I'm not sure of the zeal of Eliza Spalding, the other woman who came West to become the first white woman over the Rockies, but it too, must have been great. Although Narcissa seems to have captured all the headlines of this saga, Eliza's role with the Nez Perce Indians (where she and husband Henry made their mission) is sizable.

When the Whitmans decided to locate their mission among the Cayuse Indians just seven miles west of here, it was the first step toward answering our question of tonight. The massacre of the mission leaders and 12 others on a bleak November day 11 years later not only ended the Whitman saga but brought us a step nearer answering our question. For, in response to the 1847 massacre, came the Oregon Volunteers, succeeded by the regular army with the establishment of Washington Territory in 1853. A big conference of many Indian tribes was called for the region by first Territorial governor, Isaac Stevens. The banks of Mill Creek, close to the present Whitman College

campus, was the site in May and June of 1855. Some Indians were dissatisfied with the way the treaty was signed and soon made their presence felt in an uprising that winter of 1855. A three-day battle in December on the Touchet River saw U. S. troops victorious, but the Indian unrest was not yet stilled. Settlement here was halted and was not again permitted until 1858.

Following their success in the 1855-56 campaigning, the Army set up a temporary garrison on a shallow fording spot of Mill Creek. You now know it as First and Main generally. This was not the first Fort Walla Walla as it was called by the Army. The first had been at the mouth of the Walla Walla River, built in 1818, first as Fort Nez Perce by the old Northwest Company of traders. Bought in 1821 by the Hudson's Bay Company, it was to be taken over later by the U.S. Army and used as a post until abandoned in the wars of the 1850s. The town of Wallula was to spring up around it, though and to become an important river steamer and railroad shipping point. It was covered with water when McNary Dam was completed in 1953.

A permanent army post was built on a slight hill overlooking the first garrison in 1857. Now known as the Veterans Administration Medical Center, it was a military post until 1910, abandoned and then revived as a medical facility. Now a National Historic Site, the fort, built to protect settlement for a wide area of the inland Northwest, was to see a city take root at its door . . . another step towards answering our question. While early forms of a town took place near the gates of the fort (then located at 12th and Poplar) formal city platting was to take place a bit east from the Mill Creek ford site at what is now First and Main. From this point a town's first shacks and tents sprung to house its first merchants. In 1859 the City of Walla Walla was formally launched as was the County of Walla Walla and Whitman Seminary. These three important steps of our history were noted in a yearlong Centennial in 1959, with a stagecoach of the 1859 period being revamped and made use of to publicize the occasion. That vehicle, incidentally, remains in the custody of the Walla Walla 59ers and will probably be used in a Walla Walla to Olympia ride as a part of the state Centennial observance in 1989.

Now, building a town at the gates of a military post wasn't anything new. Many other towns hold that distinction today. Some have even died since. But such was not to be Walla Walla's fate as we see the arrival of an event and the emergence of men and women of stature upon the scene.

Discovery of gold was the happening of course, which turned things around for the would-be city at the gates of the army fort. First discoveries were up north, then in rapid succession came discoveries at Pierce City and Orofino, Idaho, in Virginia City, Mont., and John Day, Oregon, along with more discoveries in the Okanogan Country. The nearest "jumpoff" town to all these was the newly arrived town on the banks of Mill Creek and enterprising merchants soon made the most of this opportunity as miners by the thousands rushed from Portland (after reaching it by every means to reach the diggings. Others followed and came along with miners: the card sharps, dealers in bad whiskey, and what ever else miners needed at the mines or when they had to leave because of cold weather. Places where gold was found suffered from severe winter so the miners would hole up in some town with warmer surroundings and Walla Walla enjoyed its first boom times. The town probably had its fastest growth in the decades of the 1860s and 1870s and on into the 1880s as Walla Walla became the largest city of Washington Territory. It wasn't until about 1882 that Seattle overtook Walla Walla's population and Spokane was not

incorporated until 1881.

It was also in this era of the town's emergence as the leading center of Northwest trade that we note emergence of men of zeal who saw to the growing (and the reason for) this city of Walla Walla. A number of men proved able leaders of the town built to be a city, but the name of one stands out. I would like to tell you of Dr. Dorsey Syng Baker, a man educated to be a medical doctor, but one who came West imbued with more than that. His was a driving force, one which was to see the man arrive here in the early 1860s driving a herd of cattle to the mines in northern Washington, a man who developed growing of wheat and found ways to make it the great crop of the Northwest that it became. He was also a premier merchant, one who developed the banking business here. But, Dr. Baker has gained a fond niche in our history for his building of the Territory's first railroad, the, 30-mile Columbia River and Walla Walla Railroad, completed in 1875. Dubbed the Rawhide Railroad, due to a myth that Dr. Baker had utilized leather strips on wooden rails, the train provided cheaper transport for wheat to the Columbia and thence to the world by boat. Stymied at first to secure iron rails the ingenious Baker contrived rails by bolting iron straps to planks until he could get the proper rails and thus came the nickname for his ambitious railroad. Its building had sapped the resources of the doctor, but sale of his interest to what later came to be the Union Pacific Railroad helped him recoup at least some of those losses, I'm sure.

Dr. Baker died in 1888. Most of his diaries and papers have been given to the archives of Whitman College library and are now being processed. Nancy Pryor, formerly a librarian of the state library at Olympia (but now retired) has been transcribing diaries of Dr. Baker for over a year. When she recently presented a paper telling of her work, she had much of interest to tell of the eminent Dr. Baker. I asked Mrs. Pryor what she felt had been the strengths of Dr. Baker's contributions to the making of Walla Walla. Her answer was:

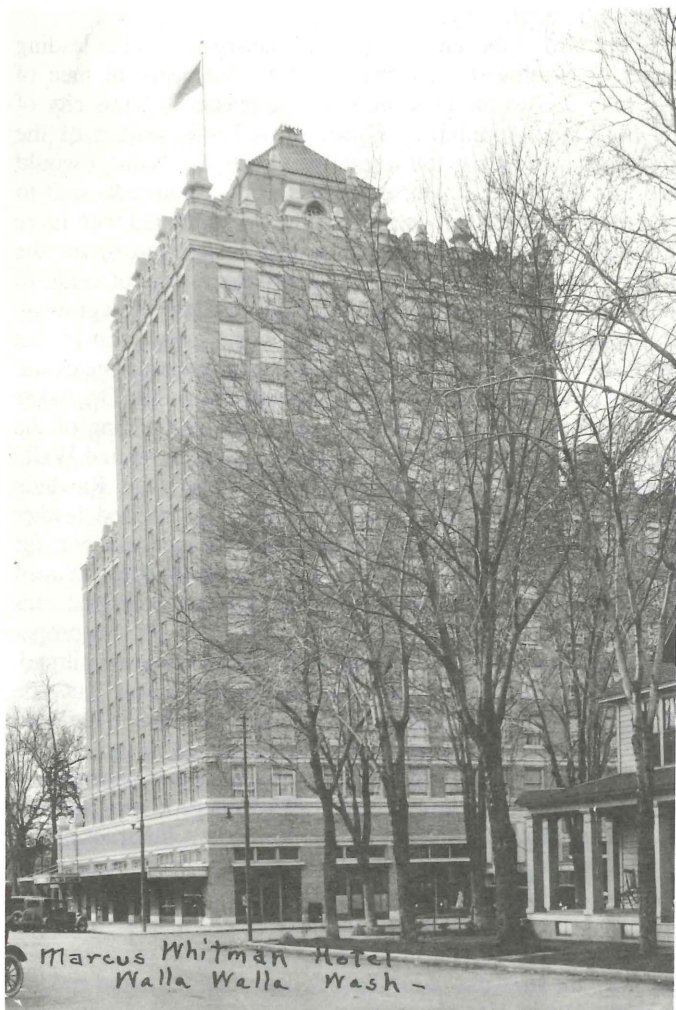
"Obviously the building of the railroad and the bank were big things, but my feeling is because he was an educated man, he probably did more than any single person to improve the quality of life in Walla Walla . . . The fact that he was an educated man and had a high regard for education was recognized (Dr. Baker gave 4½ acres for the establishment of Whitman College) . . . And, because of his interest in the classics Whitman became a different type of college . . . it could have become anything . . . but became what it did because he wanted his children to enjoy the fruits of education with a lot of classics in the background. His contributions added much to elevating cultural aspects of the young college and the equally young town. I think Dr. Baker set the tone of the times in Walla Walla. This town has always had a bit more intellectual stature, a bit nicer living and cultural level than many other cities of 25,000 in the U.S. and much of the credit for that goes to Dr. Baker and of course, people like him, too."

Mrs. Pryor also footnoted remarks by adding:

"His family has been quite exemplary down through the generations which followed him . . . they have been a most laudable group of people."

Miles C. Moore, a son-in-law of Dr. Baker's, and last governor of the Territory of Washington, made a speech to a gathering of pioneers in 1917. It recalled his own experiences coming to the frontier town. I'd like to share it with you as a conclusion.

"Many of you came here long years ago and saw the city in its earliest beginnings . . . saw it when it was only a frontier trading post . . . an outfitting point for miners bound to the mines of Pierce City, Orofino and Florence in Northern Idaho and to Boise in Southern Idaho . . . all new camps. A little



WHEN MARCUS WHITMAN HOTEL OPENED . . . Old mansion at northeast corner was still in place when hotel opened in 1928.(Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

WALLA WALLA AREA CHAMBER HARNESSING REGIONAL POTENTIAL

(The following is through the courtesy of Nanc Reznicek, manager of the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber, which also provides space for offices of the United Way and the Port of Walla Walla, is located at the corner of Sumach and Colville.)

The Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit membership organization that includes business, industrial and professional individuals throughout the community. Its mission is to promote and enhance a healthy economic and social climate.

"The things we do best, we do together," expresses the purpose of the Chamber in harnessing the potential of the private enterprise system and enables its membership to accomplish collectively what no one could do individually.

The Chamber means something different to every individual who comes through our front door. During the past year we have tracked the number of people who come into our office and/or call our office . . . last year (1987) that number was 22,810.

To the individual who is looking for statistical information,

later Kootenai in British Columbia and the mining camps of western Montana became the Mecca of the gold seeker.

"Many of them outfitted here and were followed by pack trains laden with supplies. Many of you will remember the tinkle of the mule bell which the pack mules followed in blind obedience.

"All day long these pack trains filed in constant procession through the streets of the busy little city, bound on long journeys through the mountains to the various mining camps.

"Indians, gaudy with paint and feathers, rode their spotted, picturesque cayuse in gay cavalcades along the trails leading to town to trade for fire water and other less important articles of barter.

"Covered ox wagons laden with dust-begrimed children and household goods all the way from Missouri, ranchmen and cowboys in all their pristine swagger and splendor helped to make up the motley throng that filled the streets. The cowgirl who rides a horse astride had not then materialized.

"The packers and many of the miners came to "winter" as they expressed it in those days. They spent their money prodigally and unstintingly in the saloons, in the gambling and hurdy-gurdy houses, and in the spring would return to the source for fresh supplies of gold.

"Some of the more successful would return to the States, and all expected to when they "made their pile." None of us had any idea of making this a permanent place of residence or of being here 50 years later. As youngsters, we sang with lusty voices:

"We'll all go home in the Spring boys,

"We'll all go home in the Spring."

But as we know now, many of those who came here to hit it rich, find their fortune and go back to Missouri, New England, Virginia, or wherever, did not. And those who remained to make this their home were those who give reason to why there is a Walla Walla today.

we are a resource center . . . a place they can call and find out populations, retail sales figures, major industries, labor and industry figures and so on.

We are also the place someone will call to find out how to get a handicapped permit for their vehicle. The types of questions range from "How do I get to the library?" to "Who was the seventh mayor of Walla Walla?"

To visitors and potential visitors to our community, we are an information center. We provide them with information on what to do and see in the area, where they can stay and where they can eat. We also issue approximately 6,500 non-resident tax permits a year . . . most of those during July and August . . . and we produce a city map and a community calendar.

In addition, we sponsor Business Week, host the Small Business Administration, conduct legislative "Hot Line" when our legislature is in session in Olympia and sponsor seminars and workshops throughout the year.

The Chamber is home of the Blue Mountain Plan Center, which was organized by the Chamber approximately 12 years ago. It has 65 to 70 members who utilize the plans on a daily basis. Here is how it works: an individual or business joins the



HOT AIR BALLOON STAMPEDE . . . a big event of the many sponsored each year by the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce.

Plan Center and then is able to reserve a set of plans for review on a particular day. The member, of course, needs the plans in order to submit a bid for the job. Through the Blue Mountain Plan Center we are able to help keep local dollars here in Walla Walla instead of going to an outside contractor.

We also administer the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Commission. The commission was formed through the Chamber in 1982. Today, through the Commission, the Walla Walla Sweet is marketed throughout the country. Only Commission members may use the "Genuine Walla Walla Sweet" seal and as awareness of the seal continues to grow, more packers are interested in becoming members of the Commission.

In 1985 The Chamber became the coordinator for the Walla Walla Hot Air Balloon Stampede. This has become a major event for the community and continues to grow each year. It incorporates hundreds of volunteers and provides us with an opportunity to showcase our community. This project is a year-around one for the staff and task forces.

The Chamber also serves as the regional office for the Washington State tourism program. Through our involvement in the state program, we have been designated Region I office. The marketing and advertising plans adopted by the region are then coordinated through the Walla Walla chamber office.

The Port of Walla Walla has been designated by the State of Washington the lead agency for economic development in

Walla Walla County. The Chamber serves on the Team Walla Walla Advisory Board which works with the Port to bring increased business activity to the valley.

We are continuing to build a strong government relations program so that we may effectively work with our city, county and state officials. While we do not get involved in the campaigns of individuals, we are involved in issues that affect our community.

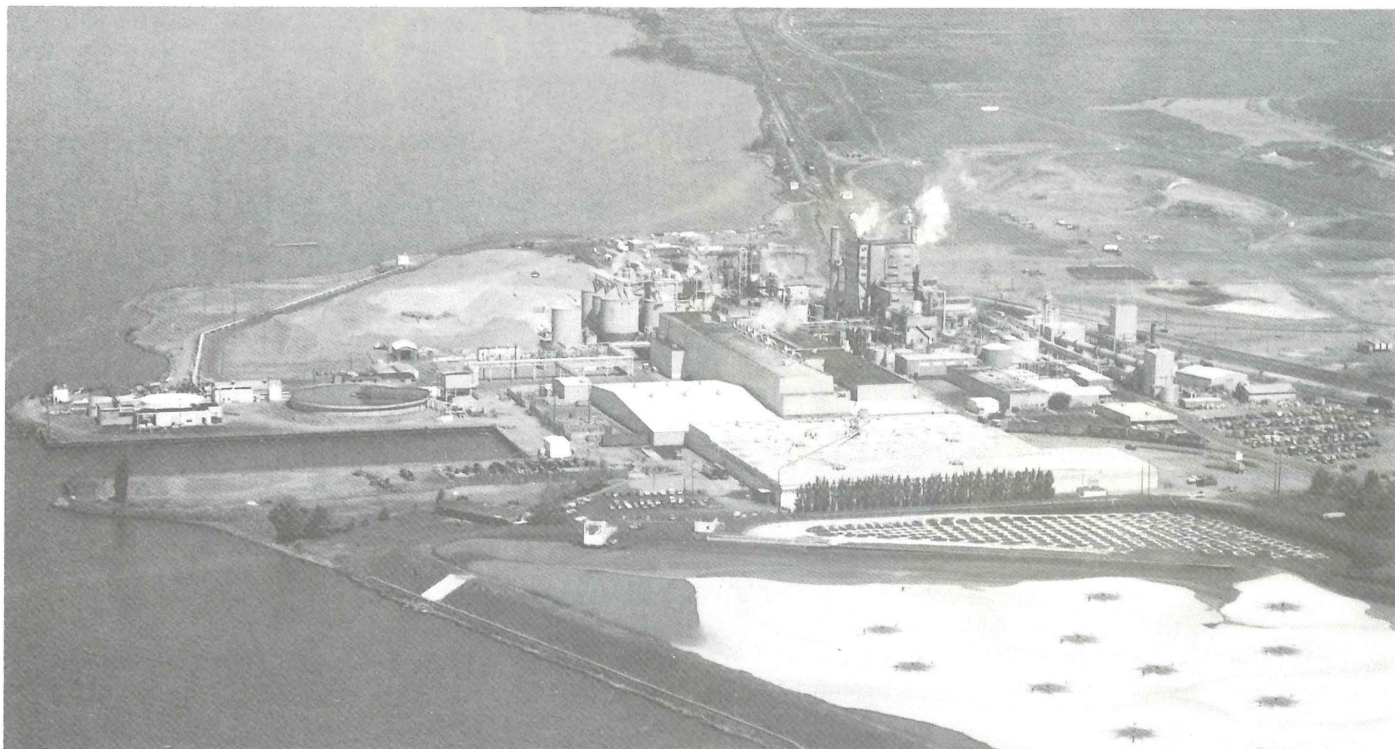
Our responsibility is to provide vision, leadership and a voice for the business and professional community . . . to be an organization through which the public and private sections cooperatively identify and resolve those issues that become impediments.

These are just a few of the many areas of involvement of the Walla Walla Area Chamber of Commerce. The variety and scope of Chamber activities is unlimited, depending on the needs of the community and the desire and ability of the Chamber to carry them out.

The policies and programs of the Chamber are determined by its Board of Directors and implemented by the Chamber staff and volunteers.

Over the years, Chamber operations, attitudes and programs have changed to meet the challenge of the times. However, one premise remains the same . . . the integral role of involved and concerned citizens to protect and preserve our free enterprise system.

PORT DISTRICT GEARED TO DEVELOPMENT



BOISE CASCADE CORP., WALLULA PLANT . . . Has 500 employees with annual payroll of \$20 million, pays annual taxes of \$3 million and buys \$4 million of natural gas and \$1.2 million of electricity each year while producing 1,193 tons of paper. (Aerial photo courtesy Boise Cascade Corp.)

(The Port of Walla Walla was barely "off the drawing board" at the time of the 1953 edition of the "Walla Walla Story," getting no mention in the book. Material for the following is through the courtesy of the district's manager, Roy Nishi.)

The Port of Walla Walla was established in 1952 by voters in Walla Walla County to improve the economic and industrial base in the county.

The Port District is a county-wide municipal corporation governed by a board of three commissioners elected by the people. Each of the commissioner's districts coincides with districts of the county commissioners.

Present port commissioners include: Wes Colley, president of Bank of the West; Ken Jantz, a Waitsburg-area farmer; and Dr. Fred Bennett, engineering professor at Walla Walla College.

First commissioners when the district was formed were: W.D. (Bill) Ray, William E. Vollmer and William E. Falconer.

The port commission organizes itself, elects its officers and employs the port manager. Offices currently are in the Chamber of Commerce building. Colley is currently president of the commission.

Basically, the Port of Walla Walla has a two-pronged mission: to assist existing business and industry to realize their full potential, to expand their businesses and to remain in Walla Walla County and secondly, the port must attract new businesses or new industries to the county to help expand the tax base and to further stabilize the area's economy.

To accomplish this mission, the port may construct, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, construct and operate, sell and lease the following:

Marine terminal facilities (piers, warehouses, elevators, etc.), industrial and manufacturing facilities, facilities for processing and freezing goods and agricultural products, airport facilities, rail and motor vehicle transfer facilities, marinas, warehousing

and storage facilities and short line railways.

Some facilities owned by the Port of Walla Walla include:

—Cargill barge slip No. 1 and associated grain elevators. The barge slip can accommodate any grain barge on the Columbia or Snake rivers.

—Connell Grain Growers barge slip No.2 and grain storage facilities.

—General cargo dock for public port purposes. A 250-by-55-foot river front general cargo dock at Burbank. Approximately 20 acres of land at Burbank are available for development.

- Industrial development . . . Early development occurred in the western part of the county, on the Columbia River, on the McNary Dam pool, formed by the dam. First, the Boise Cascade Corp. plant site was acquired and developed by the Port of Walla Walla, leased and then sold to Boise Cascade. The Iowa Beef Packers Co. meat packing plant is situated on land acquired by the port and sold to Atlantic Richfield Corp., who later sold to IBP. In 1980 the port sold an additional 320 acres to IBP for \$524,000. This land was purchased by IBP as insurance if more extensive waste treatment was required.

—Airport area industrial sites . . . These sites are completely developed or committed to the current tenants for future expansion. Nelson Irrigation Corp. leases five acres of port-owned land and buildings and Strauser Manufacturing, Inc., leases approximately seven acres of port-owned land and buildings. There is under jurisdiction of the Walla Walla City-County Airport Board more than 1,000 acres of land which could be used for industrial purposes.

—Rose Street industrial site . . . The Port of Walla Walla owns 40 acres of land on Rose Street, west of Termicold and it is zoned for light industrial use. In the port's planning the commission has always considered the best use of this site to be for industrial development. Substantial improvements have been made in this area, including a modern manufacturing plant

for Neotech International. The port also owns eight acres of land on the west side of Avery Street, south of Coca Cola properties.

The Port of Walla Walla, in accordance with the Local Economic Development Act of 1981, has formed the Port of Walla Walla Public Corporation. Officers are the commissioners and the port district manager. This corporation provides a means to issue non-recourse, federal tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds, revenue notes and other revenue obligations to acquire, construct or improve industrial facilities.

The port recently completed the Strauser Manufacturing Inc. plant on Isaacs Avenue (valued at close to \$4 million) and issued

non-recourse industrial development revenue bonds for the Broetje Orchards project in northern Walla Walla County, an apple processing/storage plant valued at about \$8,500,000.

Since inception of the port district, the port has been instrumental in helping the following industries to locate or expand facilities in Walla Walla County:

Iowa Beef Packers (IBP), Connell Grain Growers, L & M Feedlot, Nelson Irrigation, Neotech, Walla Walla Grain Growers, Cargill, Boise Cascade Corp., Northrup King, Hazelton Steel, Columbia Basin Steel, Strauser Manufacturing, Inc., and Reidel International.

CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT IMPORTANT ASSET

(Current information for this article has been provided through the courtesy of Gail Reed, manager of the Walla Walla City-County Airport.)

Walla Walla City-County Airport, the county's largest mass transportation facility, is one of the area's most important assets to the economy.

The airport is owned jointly by the City and County of Walla Walla and is operated by a five-member non-salaried board under a joint agreement between the two municipalities and is administered by a board-employed manager.

The airport is currently serviced by Horizon Air, with 10 weekday flights to Seattle, Spokane, Yakima, Portland and Lewiston. Monthly enplanements average more than 1,300 passengers.

The airport is classified as a primary service airport. The primary runway is a precision instrument, basic transport runway, 7,186 feet long and 150 feet wide, lighted for night time operation by high intensity runway lights. An FAA-operated air traffic control tower is currently operational between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily and an FAA-operated flight service station (FSS) is located at the airport. Two other runways, a non-precision, general utility runway, 6,597 feet long and 150 feet wide, unlighted, and an unlighted basic utility runway, 6,449 feet long by 150 feet wide, complete the airport's runway system.

Aviation-related activities located at the airport include a full-service fixed base operator providing service and maintenance facilities to the public as well as flight training courses and rental aircraft, two aerial agricultural-chemical applicators, and a flight training facility for a local college.

Land included within the property perimeter totals approximately 2,000 acres, approximately one-third the size of the City of Walla Walla in area. This complex is separated into the aviation facilities, the "airport" and a commercial/industrial area and cultivated land. The commercial/industrial area includes 134 rental units with over 426,000 square feet, located within an area of approximately 350 acres.

Approximately 200 acres are occupied by the runways, 1,450 acres utilized for agricultural purposes, primarily wheat and barley production by two tenant farmers.

The airport management operates and maintains the water system supplied by a well, the sewage collection system, street lighting, roadways, buildings and grounds within both the commercial/industrial area and the airport portions of the complex. The management also provides administrative, financial, basic engineering and planning functions for the two areas within the airport complex, administering over 300 leases of renters of the facilities.

Located within the terminal building at the airport is a restaurant, two car rental agencies and Horizon Air's ticket and baggage facilities. Adjacent to the terminal is the FAA's flight service station and sector maintenance facilities, the latter of which services the electronics of the airport's navigational devices.

Aviation in Walla Walla dates back to at least 1911 when Walter Brookins and Charles F. Willard flew Wright and Curtiss planes here. Early fields were located south of the old Fort Walla Walla grounds where the old stunt flyer, Tex Rankin opened a flying school. Planes also used a field near the present Southeastern Washington fairgrounds about 1915-16.

The first air mail via plane arrived from Spokane April 28, 1920, and later Varney Air Lines (succeeded by United Air Lines) started air mail service out of Pasco. In Walla Walla the first regular scheduled service carrying air mail originated here in December, 1937. United started first flights into Walla Walla in 1937.

The federal government acquired the city's airfield (present City-County Airport) in 1941 as the basis for a huge World War II heavy bombardment plane training base for the U.S. Army Air Corps (now the Air Force). It was part of these buildings (the base hospital) which was taken over in 1948 by the Walla Walla District of the Corps when it was formed that year. Other buildings also remain as units maintained by the airport board.

VA MEDICAL CENTER STARTED AS U.S. ARMY FORT

(The following article utilizes much of what was written by former Union-Bulletin news editor, Claude M. Gray, in the 1953 edition, but has updatings and other changes made for this edition by Robert L. Stevenson, Chief, Building Maintenance and Dietetics, Veterans Administration Medical Center.)

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

The Veterans Administration Medical Center occupies grounds used from May of 1857 until Sept. 27, 1910, by Fort Walla Walla.

By an act of Congress, the entire reservation of Fort Walla Walla was released to the Public Health Service of the Treasury Department May 23, 1921. The following year its development by the Veterans Bureau, now the Veterans Administration, started. Existing buildings were utilized and new ones constructed to provide needed facilities.

Today, the medical center has 150 beds, some 290 employees, and an annual budget in excess of \$13 million. Of the 150 beds, 31 are for the treatment of chemical dependencies, 10 are for rehabilitation and the remainder are for general medical and surgical cases.

The original Fort Walla Walla was constructed in 1818 near the confluence of the Walla Walla and Columbia rivers, by Donald McKenzie of the Northwest Co. Later, it was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Co., who abandoned it in 1855 following unrest by the native population.

The second Fort Walla Walla was a military camp in what is now the heart of the city of Walla Walla, at the corner of First and Main streets.

The third Fort Walla Walla was constructed by troops arriving in May, 1857, at the present site of the VA Medical Center. There are 15 original fort buildings still in use today by the facility, eight of which were originally officers' quarters. The original site consisted of 640 acres, together with a hay section and timber section, both of which were later relinquished by the military. The fort was briefly abandoned by all by a caretaker force from 1867 to 1873, when it was again re-garrisoned and remained in active service until its final decommission on Sept.

27, 1910.

Between 1910 and 1922, the fort saw several occupants: St. Mary's Hospital used it for a year following the destruction of its facility by fire, Jan. 27, 1915. During World War II, the 146th Field Artillery Battalion was mustered in and formed at the fort, prior to being sent to California for training.

Fort Walla Walla was the birthplace of Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, hero of Bataan and Corregidor during WWII. Gen. Matthew Ridgway, former supreme commander of NATO and Army Chief of Staff, lived at the fort as a youth while his father was stationed here as a cavalry officer. Gen. U. S. Grant's brother-in-law, Capt. Dent, was stationed here, and Grant visited the fort on several occasions.

To the west of the present medical center grounds lies the fort cemetery, which was in use from 1859, the date of the earliest burial, to 1906, when the last internment is recorded. A total of 111 military graves and 32 non-military, including those of Indians, occupy the site. Soldiers killed during skirmishes with Chief Joseph's Nez Perces at the battles of White Bird Canyon and Cottonwood Creek repose in the fort cemetery. The entrance and circular drive girding the parade ground were named "Wainwright Drive" during ceremonies July 4, 1944, in honor of Gen. Wainwright, then still held prisoner of war by Japan.

Key staff, including the Medical Center director, today reside in quarters which once housed military officers. Some of the oldest homes in Walla Walla are those former staff quarters, a few of which date back to 1858. During remodeling, the original adobe bricks were discovered. The buildings predate the arrival of sawmills, which accompanied some of the earliest troops to be stationed here. Two of the original troop barracks are still used today for patient care wards and administrative offices.

Most modern of the hospital's buildings housing patients is the clinical building, completed in 1929. This impressive 3-story brick structure has been remodeled with updated features and equipment many times since its construction, and today continues a legacy of housing military veterans which began over 130 years ago.

WALLA WALLA DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE CREATED 1948

(The key role in Northwest development played by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is told in this history of the district office, created in 1948. The history was composed from a 3-volume historical overview of the district, the first two of which were written by Howard Preston, who died prior to publication of the second. Preston spent 40 years in federal service, retiring in 1970 as chief of planning branch of the district. Preston's highest concern with being of service, was demonstrated by his service to his church, in several professional societies and on the planning board, school board and Walla Walla Community Concert Association. Henry Pope, district security manager, was the direct corps contact in the writing of the third volume. Basic material for this article is provided through the courtesy of the district's Office of Public Affairs, headed by O. C. Dugger. It is a matter of historic interest that the Corps of Engineers' activities were not new to Walla

Walla County. Both leaders of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804-06 were Engineer officers of the Topographical Corps which was later to become a part of the Corps of Engineers. In 1859 and 1860 Lt. John Mullan of the Topographical Corps, pioneered a road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton, Montana, the head of navigation on the Missouri River. Considerable Corps work was done for the seasonal shallow-draft navigation of the Snake River in the late 19th century. In the 1940s the Portland District of the Corps built Mill Creek dam and the lined channel through Walla Walla to prevent the recurrence of several disastrous floods in the city. That district also built the Air base during World War II.)

The U.S. Department of the Army authorized the Walla Walla District on Sept. 10, 1948, effective Oct. 31, 1948.

The district covers a spacious section of the Northwest with



McNARY LOCK AND DAM . . . Dedicated in 1954 by President Eisenhower, McNary Dam was the first of many to be built in this region by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Courtesy Walla Walla District Office)

boundaries generally following the Snake River drainage and including more than 114,000 square miles in six states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and small portions of Nevada and Utah.

Establishment of the district was favored by the North Pacific Division Engineer because of the growing extent of Corps of Engineers work on the Columbia and Snake river basins. Construction had started on McNary Dam in 1947, plans for Snake River dams had jelled and design of the first component of Ice Harbor Dam had been funded for initial construction in 1946. Congress appropriated preliminary design funds for construction of Lucky Peak Dam near Boise, in 1948.

In addition, local flood protection measures were also being constructed at Walla Walla and at the Heise-Roberts location on the Snake River above Idaho Falls.

All of these activities, plus the future work that was envisioned, prompted the division engineer in 1947 to initiate a survey of several towns, including Pendleton, Tri-Cities, Spokane, Boise, and Walla Walla, for the best location of a possible district office.

The city of Walla Walla was selected as the headquarters site because it was the largest community in the general area of the anticipated development at McNary Dam and the Lower Snake River dams, away from the boom development of the Tri-Cities and possessed one of the major airports in the Inland Empire. The airport also had considerable space for office facilities since the closure of the World War II Army Air Corps base in 1946.

Probably one of the compelling arguments for settling in Walla Walla, other factors being equal, was the presence there of the Inland Empire Waterways association with an executive vice president who was a real activist for the development of the water resources of the Inland Empire in Herbert G. West. West was a far-sighted individual with a vision of major developments for the Columbia Basin water resources. He was an able promoter and had the knack of being able to sell his ideas to others,

figures ranging from local to national.

From the memory of local citizens who were then charting the course of Walla Walla, the district engineer indicated early in 1948 that Walla Walla and Pendleton were in competition for the headquarters site, but in order to be the winner, about 50 homes would have to be provided as a starter.

Walla Wallans were the activists, promptly forming "The Blue Mountain Housing Corporation," and started building homes. Others followed.

It appears this activity had some influence and on Sept. 7, 1948, a formal announcement was made in the Union-Bulletin that an interior district office of the Corps was being established. After that announcement West's IEWA organization sent letters to every organization in the community urging full cooperation and an all-out effort to make housing available.

Col. William Whipple, the division executive officer, was given the task of working out details and organization of the new district. He was then named as the first district engineer for Walla Walla.

First offices for the embryo district were on the second floor of the Union-Bulletin building but in September of 1948, district officials negotiated with the Walla Walla City-County Airport board to use surplus buildings once used at the Army Air Corps base for its hospital. The buildings were deeded to the Corps at no cost. Administrative and construction elements remained separated until 1951 when the administrative offices came to the airport facilities.

In his organization of the new district, Whipple recruited Jim Reeves as chief of engineering; Leo Buhr, chief of the construction division; Russell D. Whelan, chief administrative assistant; Merle E. Lietzke, chief of the real estate division; William E. Sanderson, chief of personnel; Francis E. Casey, fiscal officer; Ed Wainwright and Chester Hansen, management and office services; Claude Waggoner, surveying and mapping; VanNatta Baldwin, supply division; Clyde Walker, attorney and legal counsel; Louis Rydell, planning and Edwin C. Franzen, design.

In the district's first seven years, construction at McNary and Lucky Peak dams dominated the workload until their dedications in 1954 and 1955, respectively.

Construction of McNary occupied a large part of the district's workload in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1949 the district had 456 employees and by 1950 had a total of 584. In the late 1950s workforce levels were at 1,000.

McNary was the first major multipurpose project completed by the newly formed district. Six years after its construction, McNary produced its first power for the Northwest Power Pool in 1953. The powerhouse was fully completed in 1956.

Development of McNary eliminated a 60-mile stretch of open river on the Columbia, which had formerly been hazardous to navigation because of inadequate channel width and depth.

Named after a former Oregon senator, Charles Linza McNary, who supported construction of the dam in Congress, the project carried an overall price tag of \$287,300,000. Once completed, it contained 218,637,000 pounds of steel and 1,880,000 cubic yards of concrete. During excavation work 4,075,000 cubic yards of earth were moved.

In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower and Chief of Engineers Major General Samuel Sturgis dedicated the dam. An estimated 30,000 people attended the dedication program.

Construction on Ice Harbor Dam, first on the Snake River about 10 miles above its confluence with the Columbia, started in 1956 and was completed in 1962. At one point, contractors threatened to quit work because federal construction funds were running out. Through the efforts of Herbert G. West, funding was appropriated so work could go on.

The second highest flood since 1910 crashed down the Snake River in 1957 and almost broke through the cofferdam surrounding the newly started dam.

On May 9, 1962, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson keynoted dedication ceremonies at Ice Harbor. Though suffering from laryngitis, he spoke of the new dam as an important first step in developing the navigation and power potential of the Snake and its irrigation and recreational benefits.

Because of an abundance of engineering projects for the district and the lack of construction jobs in the Seattle District, construction of Lower Monumental Dam (next above Ice Harbor) was assigned to the Seattle District of the Corps, although it was designed in Walla Walla. The dam was completed in 1969 and turned back to the Walla Walla District for maintenance and operation.

During the late 1950s the district was engaged in construction of missile bases in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

In the 1970s, the district completed work on the three remaining Lower Snake River dams and slackwater navigation was thus brought to Lewiston. Dworshak Dam, near Orofino, Idaho, the largest straight-axis gravity dam in the United States, was also completed during this decade (1973). Ririe Dam, near Idaho Falls, was completed in 1978.

With completion of the Snake River dams, the final segment of the 465-mile Inland Waterway from Portland to Lewiston was accomplished.

The 1970s were also marked by an intensifying environmental movement. The environmental decade would have a profound impact on water quality, fishery and wildlife habitat development . . . "a time of adjustment, change and challenge."

Not blind to the environmental changes sweeping the nation in the early 1970s, the district started working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to revitalize fish runs on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The Corps financed experimentation and a program of collecting and transporting migrant steelhead and salmon from upstream dams to a point below Bonneville Dam to eliminate losses of these juvenile fish from turbines, nitrogen super saturation, predation and increased downstream migration time.

In 1977, record low water conditions forced the district to undertake an emergency "Operation Fish Run," a program of sending fingerlings downstream by huge river barges. The district has operated the juvenile fish transportation program every year since, reaching a hauling peak of 17 million fish in 1987. It has become one of the district's largest environmental efforts and recognized as one of the most unique programs in the Corps.

The district constructed the world's largest steelhead hatchery, the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, in the early 1970s. It would use that experience in its later construction of fish hatcheries in the 1980s under the Lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan. Congress authorized the plan in 1976 to mitigate losses to fish and wildlife attributed to construction of the lower Snake River dams.

The district constructed the first fish hatcheries under the program at McCall and Hagerman, Idaho. By 1987 most of the hatcheries under the program had been completed, and the district had established itself as a leader in hatchery design within the Corps.

Completed hatcheries include Irrigon, Lookingglass, Lyons Ferry, Tucannon, Sawtooth, Fish Creek, McCall, Hagerman and Magic Valley. Clearwater Hatchery, the last called for by the compensation plan, is expected to be completed in the early 1990s.

In the 1980s, the district added another dam to its construction history, building Willow Creek Dam for the Portland District at Heppner, Ore.

Continuing its flood-fighting tradition, the district spent more than \$2.7 million on flood control activities between 1976 and 1980. A major operation was the district's response to the 1976 failure of Teton Dam, a Bureau of Reclamation dam in Southeastern Idaho. In 1984, the district prevented flooding of Burley, Idaho, and surrounding farmlands through construction of 24 miles of canals. Levee construction was also accomplished in 1984 and 1985 to prevent ice jam flooding at Salmon, Idaho.

By 1989, work is expected to start on a new headquarters building at the airport, replacing the WWII structures occupied for four decades. Occupancy is planned for 1990.

(As this publication was going to press in late August, 1988, new plans were shaping up to bring the Corps' HQ to a downtown Walla Walla location.)

MAJOR PENAL INSTITUTION OF THE STATE



STATE PENITENTIARY . . . Many improvements since 1953 show in this 1988 aerial photograph. (Courtesy Washington State Penitentiary)

(The following was prepared for this edition through courtesy of Gary D. Jones, acting administrative assistant, Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla.)

The Washington State Penitentiary, located in Walla Walla, is the state's major penal institution. It consists of a 920-bed maximum security housing located on 21 acres, a 588-bed medium-level security housing located on 19 acres, a 107-bed minimum restricted facility located on two acres and a 48-bed intensive management unit housing located on a three-acre site.

The major industrial function of the penitentiary is to produce the auto, truck and trailer license plates for state motorists and highway signs for city and state use. More than 2.5 million license plates are produced annually.

Additional industries managed by State Prison Industries and worked by inmate labor include a clothing and mattress factory. Mattresses and clothing to be used in state institutions are produced. A furniture industry manufacturing state office and institutional furniture is located at the penitentiary. State Industries manages a 341-acre farm/dairy and hog ranch. The farm produces feed for the animals and the large hog ranch produces pork products for the penitentiary and other institutions of the state. The dairy herd, nationally recognized for largest production for size of herd, produces dairy products for the penitentiary, Walla Walla School District 140 and the U. S. Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The (Washington) Territorial prison was constructed here in 1886 and opened a year later, but only after Walla Walla business men guaranteed enough money to operate the institution until

the legislature appropriated funds. The original prison was put on a site of 160 acres. Since that time, additional land has been acquired. Washington State Penitentiary now consists of 513 acres.

Although many of the buildings were constructed in the 1890s and early 1900s, through state appropriations a 10-year construction and renovation program is nearing completion. The construction program will bring the institution into the ranks of the more modern in the nation.

In 1984 three new 100-bed co-located units were constructed and added to the existing medium security complex. A new gymnasium and education department for the complex was constructed, as well as a large state industries work site. In 1985, the intensive management living unit was constructed outside the walls of the main prison to house long term segregation and death row inmates. Other improvements called for renovation of all living units, hospital, staff office, and administrative areas.

This prison, as in others over the nation, has been marked by riots and disturbances. The most famous is probably the Lincoln Day riot of 1935, when eight men were killed and others injured. The most recent was 1979, that ended a decade of liberal rehabilitation programs including the end of an inmate governing body that voiced how the prison was to be operated. The 1980s brought on the creation of the Department of Corrections and moved Corrections from the (large supra agency) Department of Social and Health Services.

Sensational tunnel escape efforts, in which men have tried to get out of prison through long-hand processed tunnels, were made in 1936, 1952 and continued in the 1970s. Seven men

escaped in 1952 through a 200-foot trench. All of the dirt and grass areas of the main compound were covered by concrete to start the 1980s.

Inmates have received religious education and teaching since the early 1900s. A new chapel area was constructed in 1985 and two state chaplains, as well as hundreds of community volunteers, minister to the penitentiary inmates.

What do the inmates wear? Stripes were abolished in 1908, and the lock-step in 1910. Large numbers ended in 1916. Today, the inmates wear personal, street clothing or state-issued blue denim jeans and shirts, or a combination of the two.

The recreational program conducts an annual weight-lifting contest, as well as an extensive major-sport intramural program. Community teams participate in baseball, basketball, football

and other activities sponsored by the recreation department.

The institution maintains a complete school, operated by the Walla Walla Community College. Elementary grades, general education development, high school, and the opportunity to achieve an Associate of Arts degree is available to the inmates. Vocational education is available in computer, sewing, welding, auto-body and numerous other disciplines.

Financially, the prison is operated by tax funds appropriated by the state legislature. The penitentiary has 768 employees with a direct dollar impact on the Walla Walla community of \$23,789,000 in 1987. This impact does not include a \$65,000 substance abuse treatment program, capital construction projects or State Institutional Industries.

THE STORY OF THE 1878 WASHINGTON STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, HELD IN WALLA WALLA

(This account, written by Vance Orchard, first appeared in the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin as a three-part serial feature, running Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and Oct. 10, 1982. It appears in this publication courtesy of the Union-Bulletin).

As Washingtonians were making plans for observance of the Centennial of Statehood in 1989, historians recalled the state constitution written in Walla Walla several years prior to statehood.

It was a recollection of a time when it seemed to many that statehood was just around the corner. Actually, as events turned out, there were several corners to be maneuvered.

The first state constitution for Washington was hammered out over a 40-day period — and several nights along the way as well — at Walla Walla 11 years before statehood.

The sizable tome, with the constitution written in longhand, is found today in the collection of historical material in the office of the Secretary of State in Olympia. A parchment reproduction has been made for deposit in the Northwest Archives at Penrose Memorial Library, Whitman College.

That early document was put together at the first constitutional convention for the (proposed) new state. Statehood had been an issue pondered for a decade or more by legislators and at the polls before delegates finally met here in June and July of 1878.

While many residents of Washington Territory, shaped when Oregon became a state in 1859, favored statehood, many more preferred to leave things as they were. Newspapers complained of the apathy of the people, it was reported in Bancroft's "History of Washington, Idaho and Montana."

"The real reason (for the voter apathy) was that a majority of the voting class were willing that Congress should continue to pay the expenses of the municipal government until the population, then less than 40,000, reached the number of 124,000 required by the general apportionment bill to give them a member of Congress," Bancroft noted.

Bancroft further cites California newspapers in noting that "outside of Washington, it was admitted that if any territory might claim exemption from the law, it was this one, possessing an immense area and great resources, and lacking only population which would rapidly be drawn thither when it should become a state . . ."

Northern Idaho also was a factor — and a voteless delegate (from that area) was heard at the Walla Walla convention —

in the statehood discussions.

Bancroft notes that "at home" several arguments were put forth to combat the voter apathy, such as:

— The increased value of property likely to result from admission into the union would more than offset the expense of state government.

— The appropriations which would be due.

— The position of northern Idaho, which was waiting to be joined to Washington. This wasn't possible, however, until Washington was admitted to statehood, with northern Idaho a part of it, Bancroft said.

Another historian of the 1880s, Frank Gilbert, notes in his (1882) book, "Historical Sketches of Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield Counties, W.T.," that this matter of Idaho's coming into the new state was not only a "universal topic for discussion" in the 1870s, it apparently was universally favored.

Residents of Eastern Washington were in favor, he said, "because it would increase the strength of the country east of the Cascades and enable them to demand and enforce rights that residents west of the mountains were inclined to ignore."

Puget Sound people also favored such inclusion, Gilbert notes, "because the increase of population would aid in securing admission . . ."

And, Idaho residents liked the idea, he says, "because it would enable them to become part of a state and because for geographical reasons they were closely allied to eastern Washington in business relations and had no community of interest with southern Idaho, where the territorial government was located."

But, in spite of the interest in statehood, getting voters to approve a constitutional convention — deemed the first step toward statehood — continued to lag as it had since 1867. It was in the session of the Territorial Legislature of that year that an act was passed to submit the convention matter to voters in 1869. A meager vote that year indicated the indifference or indecision about the issue.

Similar actions took place in the succeeding legislatures — as well as at succeeding elections — and so it went until 1875, when the legislature once more submitted a bill for vote of the people in 1876. Possibly it was the fervor generated that year for the nation's Centennial, but whatever the reason, voters finally approved a constitutional convention. Voter turnout was some 7,000 (throughout the Territory) with a majority — a scant one — approving it, Gilbert reports.

"Accordingly, the succeeding legislature appointed a state

constitutional convention to be held at Walla Walla in June, 1878, the delegates being elected in April."

Although delegates were elected, newspapers still complained of apathy about the issue of statehood, commented Gilbert, "saying they feared the movement would fail in Congress."

Walla Walla not only was the chosen site of the convention, but Walla Walla men were probably wielding a lot of influence in shaping political matters of the Territory. In 1878, Walla Walla was still the largest city of the Territory, a position it held until the early 1880s, when Seattle took over the leadership.

Walla Walla had risen to this eminence in a few short years since a settlement had sprung up around the military post built here in 1857. The city and the county were officially launched in 1859.

Discovery of gold in Idaho, Oregon and Montana in the 1860s gave dramatic impetus to the growth of Walla Walla, which became not only the outfitting point for thousands of miners, it was the wintering "water hole" for hordes of these same miners.

Several Walla Walla men were gaining importance in both regional and national political arenas at this time. One was Thomas Brents, who came to Walla Walla in 1870 to hang out his law-practicing shingle. By 1874, he had demonstrated his abilities well enough that he was chairman of the Republican convention at Vancouver that year. The following year, he was defeated for his party's nomination for territorial delegate to Congress.

But, as an aftermath of the 1878 constitutional convention in Walla Walla, Brents was elected on the GOP ticket to Washington, D.C., defeating his Democrat opponent, also a Walla Walla lawyer, N. C. Caton. Brents succeeded the previous delegate, Judge Orange Jacobs of Seattle. Jacobs had offered a bill for Washington statehood in 1877, a measure which was to be defeated that year as well as on successive attempts by Brents when he was elected in 1878, 1880 and 1882.

Brents, by the way, closed out his career in Congress in 1885, when he formed a law partnership in Walla Walla with Thomas J. Anders and Wellington Clark. He was later elected to a long service as Superior Court judge here, starting in 1896.

The late 1870s and early 1880s were busy times in Walla Walla and the rest of the Territory. They were good times, as county fiscal records indicate.

While the Columbia and Snake rivers continued to be the main arteries for transportation, by 1878 the railroad was a factor and a growing one, too. Many schemes were on the drawing boards for expansion, as well.

Walla Walla banker-merchant, Dr. Dorsey S. Baker, had completed one of the Territory's first railroads, a 30-mile venture from Wallula (a major shipping point then) to Walla Walla in 1875. Two years later, he had expanded into eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. A prominent railroad scheme of the time was the "Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad."

Walla Walla was enjoying its "Queen City" status when the delegates arrived here to open the constitutional convention at Science Hall. This was a facility located on the second floor of a new brick building, the Reynolds-Day Building, erected in 1874. It stands today, the second structure east of the southeastern corner of Second and Main.

It is highly likely delegates probably maintained their quarters during the 40-day session at the elegant Stine House, built in 1873, at the corner of Fourth and Main. An easy stroll of two blocks from the meeting place, the Stine House was regarded at the time as the finest hotel in the Territory.

Science Hall was centrally located for the delegates, but this fact had some drawbacks as well, it was noted in the June 15, 1878, issue of the Walla Walla "Union," which editorially

commented on the noise of wagon teams "rumbling at all hours of the day," in the streets below. The Union's editor, with tongue in cheek, suggested the young inventor, Thomas Edison, be called upon for assistance as it was with difficulty that delegates could be heard by the audience.

Or, it might even have been a Union reporter was hard of hearing?

At any rate, the Union had this comment:

"It is suggested that Edison be sent for to put up a compound multiplying telephone through which the members can talk. For the member from Walla Walla, we would suggest that one of the largest sized arcphones be procured. By the use of this invention, the members of the convention and possibly the audience, could be enabled to hear him."

The Union, by the way, at this time, in an adjoining news column, noted that the first telephones had been installed in Walla Walla at this time. The following item concerning this event was covered by the simple, single-word heading:

"TELEPHONE — The Bell telephones received here by S. G. Whitman were put in operation in this city, one being placed in the Express Office, the other in the Post Office. Much pleasure and astonishment were caused by its workings, which though not perfect, were quite clear. On Wednesday, a telephone was attached to the O. S. N. Company's (a steamship line of the time) wire leading to Wallula, 30 miles away, and very distinct conversations were held between this city and that point. The words heard by means of the telephone are as though uttered by a person in a deep well."

Sixteen delegates assembled at Science Hall at noon, June 11, for a short organizational meeting chaired by W. A. George, the delegate-at-large from Walla Walla County. Actually, the convention had 15 delegates representing the Territory, as the 16th was Alonzo Leland, of Nez Perce County in Idaho, who was given the seat but no vote went with it.

Besides George, other voting delegates included Edward Eldridge, S. M. Gilmore, S. M. Wait, B. F. Dennison, C. H. Larrabee, C. M. Bradshaw, Henry B. Emery, L. B. Andrews, D. B. Hanna, Frank Henry, A. S. Abernethy, G. H. Steward, O. P. Lacy and J. V. O'Dell.

Abernethy (Cowlitz County) was elected president of the convention. W. B. Daniels, of Clark County, was elected clerk, and W. S. Clark, his assistant. Henry D. Cock was named sergeant-at-arms and two Walla Walla law students, A. P. Sharpstein and J. W. Norris, were appointed pages.

Of the 15 delegates, seven were lawyers, four were farmers and others were fishermen, lumbermen, real estate dealers and one was an editor.

It was to prove an interesting 40 days which culminated with a rail and river steamer junket to Lewiston and the "bright lights" of that young, boisterous city, springing up at the junction of the Clearwater and Snake rivers.

The pages of the Walla Walla Union — which on the third day was awarded the contract to print the proceedings of the convention — contained daily accounts of the actions of the delegates. The following information was gleaned from those pages.

Although the session was an all-male show, women were a factor with which the delegates had to reckon, including an appearance at the convention of the outstanding women's rights champion, Abigail Scott Duniway. Mrs. Duniway not only had "her day in court," as she addressed the delegates, she was also a featured speaker that week in other appearances around town.

And, on occasions other than the appearance of Mrs. Duniway, the issue of women's rights came to the front in ponderings by the delegates. A day-to-day perusal of the Union's columns

revealed several occasions when the women got the attention of the delegates, although to little avail when the final document was drafted.

That matter came fairly early, on the third day, when a resolution was offered "inviting the ladies of Walla Walla to be present during the deliberations of the convention."

"The resolution — after some discussion — was withdrawn," the Union noted.

The Union, incidentally, was not exactly a champion of the causes espoused by women of the day, it might be observed, judging from editorial comments which came later in the convention.

By the sixth day of the sessions, women's right to vote had become an issue and was hotly debated in Science Hall, with a petition being presented by Dennison, bearing the names of 600 people, and not all women, either. That included a request by delegate Stewart asking that Mrs. Duniway be permitted to address the convention.

Delegate Dennison's presentation was referred to the Suffrage Committee and Stewart's motion passed by the scant 7-6 margin and Mrs. Duniway was assured an opportunity to speak. Another motion by Hanna that Mrs. Duniway be seated and made a member of the convention was promptly rejected.

Mrs. Duniway spoke for a half hour the following day, presenting a strong case on behalf of "a large body of the unrepresented citizens," asking that Washington become the first state to give voting rights to women in its constitution.

The Union saw fit to print some of her remarks but preferred to give it short shrift with the comment:

"The reading of the memorial by her ladyship occupied about half an hour. It was sweetly perfumed with midnight oil."

Many women of Walla Walla appeared at the Duniway presentation, "buttonholing" delegates in the hall at a recess.

While delegates to the convention often convened their sessions at 9 a.m. and did not recess until 5 p.m., on several occasions, the framers were doing their work elsewhere, according to the Union's reportage. There were some days like this until the 12th day, when the "Idaho matter" became an issue of debate.

It was at this time that delegate Hanna submitted a resolution asking that the Idaho non-voting delegate, Alonzo Leland, representing Idaho, Shoshone and Nez Perce counties, be given voting privileges.

A motion by Larrabee to leave that issue to the U.S. Congress was lost.

Idaho interests pressed their case, however, with delegates Henry and Hanna, with help from Leland, leading the way in strong appeals in the remarks, reported by the Union on the 14th day of the convention. Final action of that long day for the delegates was to table a communication from J. W. Sprague, general superintendent of the Oregon Steam Navigation Co., asking a memorial by the convention be sent to Congress asking for improvements in the Snake River shipping channel.

More on this was to be heard the following day when the Sprague letter was submitted to a committee to draft the memorial requested. Another resolution that day tabled an invitation from the OSN, issued to the delegates to take a free excursion up the Snake River following the convention.

Later in the session, the delegates were to accept this generous offer, as well as to provide the memorial to Congress asked by Sprague. Delegates also accepted other such gratuities, including a free round trip ride on the new "Baker Railroad" from Walla to Wallula as part of the excursion "package" following the convention.

Women's rights again emerged at the 17th day of the convention, the matter coming on the heels of a bit of levity

that afternoon. As the Union reported: "Mr. Henry, in his happy style, presented the convention with a box of pickled clams, which was sent to him from the Sound for that purpose."

Several amendments were made to a motion that the president of the convention "take the clams in charge and report upon the contents of the box to the convention," but the president wound up taking the clams, doubtless to share with friends at the Stine House in a "session" that evening presided over by the hotel's excellent chef.

Two articles regarding the women were offered, which would have to be voted upon by the residents of the Territory before becoming a part of the constitution. One would give all the right to vote, regardless of sex, and the other provided persons the right to hold any office, regardless of sex.

The delegates took time off from their deliberations on the Fourth of July, accepting an offer from William H. Bender, chairman of the city's "Fourth of July Committee," to "participate in the festivities on that occasion."

While the July 3 session was a short one — it adjourned at 10 a.m. — the day following the Fourth's observance was a long one. On that day, delegates hammered out details of an article which dealt with impeachment proceedings to be followed for state officials. The session adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Matters concerning trials by jury were formulated the next day, including an amendment offered to an article which would give power to imprison a person for debt if fraud was in the action.

"Argument on this amendment occupied the entire afternoon," the Union reported. "The convention was about equally divided in opinion. Much hauling, pulling and sharp shooting took place."

No action was taken on that day, but the following day a fraud-bound section was adopted, 10 to 4.

Territorial Governor E. P. Ferry (who 11 years later would be the first state governor) made an appearance on the 24th day of the convention and was seated with the president of the session as an observer. The Union does not report whether he had words of advice for the delegates — or, if he spoke at all. Gov. Ferry also appeared the following day, but again no speeches, apparently.

As the convention sessions neared the end, the delegates considered such things as separate schools for black children and abolishing the reservation system for the Indians of the Territory. It was Hanna who moved for the adoption of a section as follows:

"Separate schools may be established for the children of the colored races, but such school shall not be inferior in any respect to other common schools."

This motion lost by a vote of 10 to 5.

It was Hanna also who, the following day — 31st of the convention — submitted a strong resolution asking for the abolishment of the Indian reservation system. A substitute resolution (accepted by Hanna) was offered by Larrabee which, among its provisions would have permitted Indians to take up lands instead of going onto a reservation.

The resolution was adopted and sent to the President of the United States with copies also sent to the Senate and House as well as Secretaries of the Interior and of War.

July 22, the 35th day of the session, matters of interest to women occupied the attention of the delegates for one last time, when delegate Stewart moved to have the article, "Rights of Married Women and Exemptions," presented again, at the morning session. Read for first and second times, it was again tabled, but brought forth at the afternoon session.

A motion to strike the entire article was lost.

Dennison moved to amend it and this was adopted as follows

(by a close 8 to 7 vote):

"Laws shall be passed enabling married women to make and enforce contracts relating to their personal rights and safety and to bring and maintain actions in their own right for all injuries done to their person and personal rights."

With another amendment, the article was finally adopted by a 14 to 1 vote.

The final days of the convention were occupied with paying bills (\$125 for rent of the hall to the Science Association for one), acknowledging assistance of people, including the clergy, and presenting the convention president with a silver mounted gavel "for the able and impartial manner in which he presided over deliberations."

The convention adjourned Saturday morning, July 27, and at 1:30 p.m. the delegates departed on Dr. Baker's railroad, "Walla Walla and Columbia River Railroad," for Wallula and the first leg of the junket to Lewiston. The trip was headlined as the "Constitutional Excursion" by the Walla Walla Statesman, the other newspaper of the time. The Statesman also carried an interesting — if short — account of the trip.

Although the delegates and their wives reached Wallula in good time — 2½ hours for the 30 miles — the contingent was forced to spend much of the night in Wallula, awaiting the arrival of the river steamer, "Almota." The party boarded it Sunday morning at 3 a.m., at which point the story is picked up from the Statesman account:

"The trip was enlivened by many little incidents and all day Sunday they passed numerous Indian villages, while the hundreds of herds of horses and cattle rushing down the steep bank to water added interest to the already wild and picturesque scenes.

"Sunday night stopped at New York Bar, not a gin shop as its name might imply, but a silvery (sandy) beach, through which flowed a stream of pure, crystal water. Monday morning at daybreak, again on the way, we passed the gazzetted Grange City where town lots were selling rapidly, and found that freight was received about a quarter of a mile below the city, which consists of a warehouse on College avenue, and a dwelling house on a cowpath, leading to the Broadway wharf.

"In about three hours we reached (the town of) Almota. The Rose Manning opera troupe here joined the party and we proceeded on our way, arriving at Lewiston at 5 p.m. Here we were met by a delegation of citizens who escorted the party to the Hotel de France, where a pleasant evening was spent in exchanging compliments till both parties deemed themselves

'the chosen people of God.'

"At 12 p.m. returned to the boat, and next morning started homeward.

"All parties say they had a gala time, which was owing in great measure to the gentlemanly officers of the Almota, Messrs. Troupe, Pierce, Tubbs and Bodman.

"The party returned to Walla Walla Wednesday night."

The constitution written by the delegates at Walla Walla in 1878 was ratified in the general election, although in a manner lacking enthusiasm, according to historian Gilbert.

"Not much enthusiasm was felt on the subject and many refrained from voting because they thought adoption of a constitution was premature and would accomplish nothing," Gilbert opined in 1882.

Perhaps he was right. The Territorial delegate, Brents, offered bills for statehood in Congress without success when he was first elected, then continued to do so with no more success through his three terms in Washington, D.C. As Gilbert's "Historic Sketches" book came off the presses late in 1882, the author was reporting statehood issues were heating up and hopes of the pro-statehood people were growing.

"The question of admission of Washington Territory has become more prominent in Congress in the past two years than ever before," Gilbert wrote. "Beyond the favorable report of the committee and the efforts of Mr. Brents to have it taken up for action, the bill has not progressed, but the chances for favorable action by the next Congress are bright and encouraging. Mr. Brents has again been nominated by the Republicans, and if elected, will press the matter vigorously."

And, although statehood was to remain unattained for seven more years, Gilbert held that it was imminent, as he commented in his closing words on the subject:

"The rapid increase in the wealth, population, industries and resources of the Territory, and especially its development by the lines of railroads under construction, are placing it before the country in so favorable a light that it seems impossible to keep this Territory much longer without the circle of the great sisterhood (of states)."

A prime reason for inaction on the part of Congress during the presentations by Brents — and up to 1889 — was possibly that word had reached Washington, D.C., about the apathy of many (if not most) of the territory's residents in becoming a state.

VALLEY TRANSIT OK'D BY WALLA WALLA IN 1980

(This article was prepared by Harry Drake, who served as organizing chairman during the first four years of Valley Transit service.)

Walla Walla, like most cities of its size, went through periods of horse-drawn "buses," then streetcars and finally, a privately-owned service which could not survive in competition with the family car and cheap gasoline.

In 1977, the Washington State Legislature authorized counties to form Public Transportation Benefit Areas to support bus systems with a locally sponsored 0.3 percent sales tax and an equal amount from state vehicle excise tax moneys.

The county commissioners, in 1978, ordered a feasibility study which indicated a public need for the service. An election was held in 1980 in which two-thirds of the voters indicated a willingness to pay the sales tax for a system including Walla

Walla and College Place.

The principle factors for acceptance were the large numbers of seniors in town who couldn't drive, the three colleges, the large number of students who didn't qualify for school bus transport, the shortage of parking spaces in town and last, but not least, the fast-rising price of gasoline at the time.

The governing board consisting of two county commissioners, three Walla Walla City councilmen and two College Place City councilmen, then laid out the routes, ordered a mix of second-hand and new buses, hired a manager and started operations on Jan. 5, 1981.

The communities are well served at half-hour or one hour intervals from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., six days a week. Eleven buses cover 72 route miles and carried 729,000 passengers in 1987.

All common destination points are served within a block and nearly all homes are located within two blocks of service. Local

geography is such that one "backbone" line from College Place to the City-County Airport and all of the four feeder lines meet in downtown Walla Walla simultaneously, making waiting for transportation very rare. There are few complaints about the fare: 25 cents normally; 10 cents for students of all ages and for seniors.

In addition to regular service, the transit authority negotiates with the Walla Walla Senior Citizens Center to provide door-to-door, dial-a-ride service for all people unable to use the regular service. Three vans and one minibus are furnished for this service.

Valley Transit adds much to the quality of life for residents of the area by providing mobility for all.

HOSPITALS OFFER WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR WALLA WALLA REGION



WALLA WALLA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Besides the facilities of the VA Medical Center, Walla Walla boasts the most modern medical services in St. Mary Medical Center and Walla Walla General Hospital.

Each delves deeply into the history of Walla Walla and College Place.

While the Sisters of Providence started their missionary labors and caring for the sick in the Walla Walla Valley as early as 1864, ground was broken July 20, 1879, for the first hospital between the Cascades and the Inland Empire. Only four years later, a new, two-story building was erected.

When this structure, with additions made in 1899 and 1902, was burned to the ground in 1915, a new building took its place in 1916. The "latest in hospital design and furnishings" cost \$250,000.

Sixty years later the present building was completed (March, 1976). It is a 142-bed, \$13 million facility featuring the most modern medical services.

Walla Walla General Hospital had its beginnings when Dr.



ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER

Isaac A. Dunlap and his wife, a trained nurse, in 1899 began operating treatment rooms in the basement of the Walla Walla College administration building at College Place.

When the college building burned, Seventh-day Adventist conference officials decided to provide sanitarium facilities in 1905 in the boys' dormitory and administration building.

A new sanitarium was opened in 1907 when conditions grew too crowded in the old building. The sanitarium remained here until 1931 when a structure was purchased on Bonsella Street in Walla Walla by the Upper Columbia Conference. This building had been erected in 1926 as a hospital in what became an unsuccessful venture.

This building served through World War II until in the late 1950s it was expanded with addition of a wing on the west side. These facilities served until construction of the present building in August, 1977, culminating an eight-year endeavor to provide a facility providing the most modern health care.

WEATHER A BIG PLUS FACTOR FOR WALLA WALLA

(Mark Twain felt weather rated fairly high on any conversational agenda, although little if anything was ever "done about." So it is with the subject on these pages. What was current 35 years ago for the first edition, pretty well can be said of today's weather. However, thanks to the local meteorologist for the National Weather Service, Robert Farrell, we have a few additions to offer in this edition to augment that done by Ed Lundy in the first edition.)

"What I like about it here is there are four seasons."

We've heard that description of Walla Walla on more than one occasion and have even adopted it ourselves as a standby conversational cliché, true though it be.

Having spent several decades in the Walla Walla Country, one other weather observation fits: "It might get pretty cold in the winter or pretty hot in the summer, but when it does, it doesn't last very long."

Summers in the Walla Walla Valley are hot and dry, but the humidity is usually quite low during the summer months and hot nights are rare. The average daily range between

maximum and minimum temperatures during the summer is about 26 degrees, according to the Weather Service records.

Walla Walla is located near the upper end of a wide valley which extends from west to east from the main valley of the Columbia River. The Blue Mountains rise to about 6,000 feet to the south, southeast and east of the city with the foothills of those mountains 10 to 15 miles away.

North and northeast of the valley there are rolling hills with elevations to about 2,000 feet. The Walla Walla River and a number of smaller tributary streams originating along the slopes of the Blue Mountains flow westward through the valley and into the Columbia River.

The average maximum temperature for the three summer months is about 85 degrees while the average minimal for December, January and February is 30 degrees. Although temperatures as low as 15 degrees below zero are sometimes recorded, often a winter passes with no minimum readings down to zero. Cold spells are usually short lived since they are frequently broken within a few days by the dynamic heating effect of southerly winds ("chinooks") descending the mountain slopes into the valley.

These "chinook" winds are a familiar feature of Walla Walla's winter climate. While the average sunshine during June, July and August is about 78 percent, and adequate sunshine continues also through September and most of October, there is generally considerable fog and low cloudiness from November through December and January. Valley fog occurs as a rule, during the prevalence of high barometric pressure over the interior of the Pacific Northwest when only very light winds prevail. It sometimes persists for several days at a time, resulting in nearly stationary temperature at the surface.

The average annual precipitation in Walla Walla is 16.10 inches, and the snowfall averages a total of about 22 inches per year, according to the Weather Service. Of the normal annual precipitation the seasonal distribution is fairly equal through the fall, winter and spring months, but July, August and September are usually dry. Extreme heavy rains in any season are infrequent.

The number of days with a measurable amount of precipitation averages 108 for the year, and ranges from 12 to 14 days per month during the late fall, winter and early spring to only three to six days per month in July and August. The nearness of the Blue Mountains has an important bearing on the annual amount of precipitation in the valley and foothill sections. Rainfall increases upslope to a maximum of some 70 inches per year at the summit of the Blue Mountains.

The snowfall in the mountains provides a dependable perennial runoff into the Walla Walla River tributaries and recharge of valley aquifers.

From 15 to 20 miles west of Walla Walla, where the elevation is only about 500 feet above sea level, the annual precipitation is less than 10 inches, but some 15 miles east of the city where the elevation is about 2,000 feet, the total annual amount averages between 35 and 40 inches. Occasionally heavy snowfalls occur but as a rule, the fall is light and seldom remains on the ground more than a few days at a time.

High winds are infrequent, due to the sheltering effect of the hills and mountains surrounding the valley. Sometimes strong winds from the south and southeast descend the mountain slopes in connection with chinook conditions and there are occasional dust storms in the spring months.

Ice storms, also called "silver thaws," are infrequent, but they occasionally cause hazardous conditions and some damage. Deposits of glaze are built up on exposed objects during falls of freezing precipitation.

Hail is infrequent over the lower elevations. It is more likely to fall over the higher elevations. A few tornadoes, generally small-bore funnel clouds which touch the ground briefly, have been observed over the Walla Walla area. The most likely season is in April, May and June but they may occur in any month. One occurred in August, 1987, inside the city.

Winds are generally quite light but occasional damaging wind storms and dust storms may be expected. Periods of air stagnation also occur.

Flash floods are rare but significant events. They are caused by cloudbursts from thunderstorm clouds, mostly over the higher elevations in late spring and summer. Slow rising floods in small streams are generally preceded by snow pack on frozen ground followed by chinook winds and rain.

Humidity is moderate during most of the time. Highest humidity is generally during periods of fog in late fall and winter. Lowest humidity usually occurs on hot summer afternoons.

Based on the 1951-1980 period, the average first occurrence of 32 degrees Fahrenheit in the fall is Nov. 4 and the average last occurrence in the spring is March 27.

There is a wide variety of growing conditions because the elevation of farmland varies from about 360 feet to over 3,000 feet. Temperatures are lower and precipitation is heavier over the higher elevations. Wheat and peas, two of the main crops, are grown to an elevation of over 3,000 feet. Advantage is taken of this range in elevation in order to space the maturing and harvesting of green peas over a longer season by later plantings at higher levels.

The local agricultural industry also includes a diversity of vegetables, fruits, grains, grasses, seeds and livestock. Use of irrigation over much of the area including the higher elevations, is increasing.

MEANING OF THE NAME "WALLA WALLA"

The name "Walla Walla" was first used by the Nez Perce Indians to describe the tribe of Indians who lived in this area. It was thus taken by the Walla Walla Indians because the name best described the land in which they lived.

Elliott Coues, editor of the Lewis and Clark Journals, commented in 1806 that there were more than 20 forms of the spelling then in print. Among those found were: Wollah Wollah, Wallow Wallos, Wollaw Wollah and Woller Woller. Accepted printed forms in 1839 were: Walla Walla, Walla-Walla and Wallawalla.

Rev. Myron Eells, who devoted his life to work among the

Indians, wrote in 1907:

"The Walla Walla is a Nez Perce and Cayuse word, the root of which is 'walatsa,' which means 'running,' hence 'running water.' Two meanings of it are given, one being 'a small stream running into a large one,' — that is, the Walla Walla River emptying into the Columbia; others are 'ripple after ripple,' and 'fall after fall.' "

Popular usage down through the years has given the interpretation of "many waters," although students of Indian language more generally have come to accept the use of the diminutive by the Indians and thus the above, or, "small, running

stream.”

An interesting commentary is the fact that in the Walla Walla Indian language, the name is pronounced “Wallula,” the name of the twice-moved town at the confluence of the river with the Columbia River.

The name of Walla Walla (the city) underwent several changes, all in the first year of its official establishment.

Well documented in “The History of Southeastern Washington,” are the changes for the name of the settlement which grew up around the army post built on the banks of Mill Creek by Lt. Col. Edward Jevnor Steptoe in 1856.

“There was no town of Walla Walla in 1858; there was in 1859 and it came into existence through the ex parte rules of the first board of county commissioners.

“The first two meetings of the board were held March 15 and March 26, 1859. In their official record the place was referred to as Walla-Walla. And then, without further notice, we find that at their subsequent meetings, January 6 and July 2, it was called ‘Steptoeville’, in the record of the last named date appearing the following: ‘On motion the name of the town of Steptoeville was changed to Wioletpu.’

“Despite this official action, we find that at the meeting held September 5 county seat town is still referred to as Steptoeville. But at the next meeting, November 7, the town is spoken of as Walla-Walla and the following proceeding is recorded as regards the matter: ‘On motion, the town of Wioletpu was changed to Walla-Walla.’ ”

From a vaudeville stage in Walla Walla the great comedian and singer, Al Jolson, made the comment that “it’s the town they liked so well they named it twice.” A newspaper reporter chanced to be present and the story became widely circulated. Radio performers and writers have made frequent reference to the name and Jolson’s remark.

WALLA WALLA . . . A CRADLE OF HORTICULTURE

In 1977, Joe J. Locati, by then some four years retired as the District Supervising Inspector, Federal-State Inspection Service, USDA, had published a book telling in great detail the history of horticulture in Walla Walla County which was also a great historical reference work.

That book “The Horticultural Heritage of Walla Walla County, 1818-1977,” will stand as the definitive work for a vital part of agriculture, backbone of Walla Walla County. It is from that book, now out of print but avidly sought by researchers, that the following was written in 1977 by Locati. Along with permitting our use of the material herein, he has penned some observations of the horticultural scene as he saw it one February day in 1988:

“There have been tremendous (good and bad) changes since 1977 in horticultural crop endeavors,” Locati noted. “There are fewer growers of onions, for instance, but individual acreage is much greater — up to perhaps 80 to 90 acres — and nearly 1200 to 1500 acres planted to “Sweets” and later-type hybrids.

“The pea story has melted down from the 17 processing plants (in this region) running at the height of the crop, utilizing some 20,000 acres or more in Walla Walla County, 30,000 acres or more in Umatilla County and lesser acreages in Columbia, Garfield, Garfield and Asotin counties. Today, the processing picture is a faint shadow of its former self.

“But, we have a viable and growing grape industry in the Eureka- Snake River area of the county’s west end.

On December 16, 1952, residents of Walla Walla, Washington, learned that this city is not the only one so named in the world. Rev and Mrs. J. T. Stolz of Walla Walla, New South Wales, Australia, were guests of the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce. They extended greetings from the similarly named community, explaining that the Australian town’s name bore a like meaning. As in the case of the Washington Walla Walla, the New South Wales Walla Walla was named by the natives of that land, the aborigines.

One of the best collections of the meaning of Walla Walla has been put together by Whitman College’s distinguished alumnus, the widely traveled Supreme Court Justice, William O. Douglas.

Speaking at commencement exercises at the University of Beirut where another Whitman alumnus, Dr. S. B. L. Penrose, Jr., was president, Justice Douglas encountered great laughter from the audience of 3,000 Arabs when he said (in English) “I, too, went to Whitman College, Walla Walla . . . ”

Quite embarrassed at the uproar, he learned afterwards that in Arabic, Walla Walla means, “by god, by god.” Douglas also learned on his travels that in the Urdu tongue Walla means “man.” In Pakistan he saw signs: “Wood Wallah,” “Meat Wallah,” etc. . . . meaning “wood man, meat man,” etc.

In his letter for “The Walla Walla Story,” Justice Douglas wrote: “I was telling these things to a Chinese friend who laughed and said, ‘Do you know what Walla Walla means in Chinese?’ In Chinese, a man who is full of Walla Walla is full of hot air.’ . . . And, down in the Philippines I was talking of Walla Walla to a Filipino. He smiled and said, ‘Do you know that in Tagalog (the basic language of the Islands) Walla Walla means gossip or unreliable talk?’ ”

We’ll go along with the Indians.

“And, the recent plantings (1979) — and more recent maturing — of a dwarf apple tree orchard bordering the Snake River is a remarkable new horticulture story for Walla Walla County.

“Here, grower Ralph Broetje has a huge orchard, mostly apples (including pears and cherries) approaching some 1,800 acres, I understand. And, he is completing a fully-automated, state-of-the-art packing facility, with an on-site storage incorporating latest techniques.”

Our thanks to Joe Locati for his permission to use his article in this edition.

By JOE J. LOCATI

Horticulture is that phase of agriculture dealing with the art and science of growing all fruits, nuts, berries, vegetables, flowers, ornamentals and shade trees. And, Walla Walla has grown them all in commercial quantity. By tradition, horticulture includes growing of green peas, but not mature peas. All grain crops, fiber crops or crops grown for stock feed are not considered horticultural crops.

The Indian natives of the West did not cultivate food crops. They fished, followed and hunted game, and collected and consumed what plant foods nature provided in the wild: camas roots, wild fruit, berries, dill, onion, etc.

The first known cultivated gardens between the Cascades and the Rockies were those of the Hudson’s Bay Company’s Fort

Nez Perce. It was founded in 1818 by the Northwest Fur Co., which merged with the Hudson's Bay in 1821. Some French Canadians settled with their Indian wives along the lower Walla Walla River near the fort, which became known as Fort Walla Walla.

By 1825, the location of the fort at that site was justified by an official, George Simpson, due to the fact that potatoes and other long-keeping root crops could be successfully grown there. The fort was a provision point for the Blue Mountains-Snake River fur-trading area. And just inside what is now the Oregon line, in the benchland south of the Touchet-Lowden area, the fur company had a dairy and farm, including vegetables.

When Narcissa and Marcus Whitman first rode their horses into the lower Walla Walla Valley, after a desolate ride from Fort Boise, they beheld luscious gardens, including melons, being grown by the French Canadians, and they hastened to Fort Walla Walla in eager anticipation of horticultural delights.

One of the first things Whitman did at the new mission site in the spring of 1837, was to plant a seedling apple orchard. Then followed vegetables among the farm crops seeded that year. By 1839, vegetables, berries and melons were a good part of his 200 acres (or more) farm. They helped support the mission.

After the (mission's) massacre of 1847, the area was closed until an accord was reached with the Indians. The (Washington) Territory was fully opened to settlement in 1859, and the town of Steptoeville became Walla Walla, at the crossing of the Nez Perce Trail (on Mill Creek) and the site of a rudimentary village.

While gold was found north of Spokane as early as 1857, the discovery of the metal in Idaho and Montana in 1860, particularly at Orofino, made Walla Walla the hub of the provision trade. Provisions came mostly from the Willamette, up the Columbia, to Walla Walla and beyond. And miners streamed through, merchants, camp followers, highwaymen, etc. And they all had to eat. Walla Walla was the wintering place, and the clearing house for the gold. It is estimated that in the spring of 1862 alone, 30,000 people streamed through the town on the way to the mines. And, there was near famine. Food was scarce, and many left the town.

The incentive for growing all types of food products was here. Apples, for instance, were selling at the mines for a dollar each. And, apples became the primary fruit. It seems that soon every bottomland farm had an orchard.

Ransom Clark started a nursery in 1859. James Foster brought 800 fruit trees, mostly apples, via pack train over the Cascades the fall of 1859 and planted them. He was the first Walla Walla orchardist, located seven miles southeast of town. The spring of 1860, A. B. Roberts planted a sizable orchard of grafted trees and started a nursery in what is at present a large part of the city center. The trees came from Milwaukie, Oregon.

A great impetus to "fruit raising" was given by Phillip Ritz, who arrived here in 1861 from his Portland-area nursery. These he sold to seven men. In 1862, Ritz started a nursery here of 60,000 trees. By 1872, it was holding up to one million trees per year. Ritz supplied a vast Northwest area, reaching as far as Montana, Boise, Fort Benton and all Washington points. One million trees would, in those days, plant at least 8,000 acres per year.

By 1880, there were 400 acres of orchards, around Walla Walla — mostly apples. The population of the city proper was 4,500, so much was consumed here. In 1883, disaster struck in the form of 29 degrees below zero weather. Most orchardists lost all or a large part of their fruit trees. The fruit industry lagged for a few years but was revived by such visionaries as N. G. Blalock, W. S. Offner, U. H. Berney, John Thonney, O. R. Ballou, W. A. Ritz and H. C. Chew, according to historian

W. D. Lyman. Some were orchardists mostly in name only, but Blalock was a true giant. The industry came back stronger than ever, but due largely to unsung growers.

Such a man was one Frank Orselli, an Italian from Lucca, Italy, who came to the territory in 1853 and to Walla Walla in 1857. Besides being a soldier, a grocer and a businessman in 1865, he was a fireman in 1871, owned 180 acres of land north of Main Street by 1882, and was an orchardist, vineyardist and wine maker, fruit drier and gardener. But, he is not in the text material of history books.

Berney and Thonney formed Walla Walla Produce Co., as early day shippers, and Offner, a sizable orchardist, joined them in 1901. Blalock headed up a vast grower-shipper corporation in 1897. It grew and handled mostly fruits and some vegetables.

By 1900, it was estimated by the best sources (census figures were scarce and highly inaccurate) that there was near 3,000 acres in fruits in Walla Walla County, about half of bearing age. The Blalock Company alone had 400 acres. The fruit was strongly apples, with prunes next, pears, cherries, peaches, grapes and other small fruits.

According to Lyman, in 1900, 600 carloads of produce were shipped, 85 percent of which was fruit; or a matter of 510 of fruit and 90 of vegetables. (Evidence of the times indicates the vegetable count was far too low). Another 250-carload equivalent was estimated to have been consumed in the immediate area (population of Walla Walla City alone was 10,049). Much of this was vegetables.

The fruit industry had many problems of pests and diseases and a Board of Horticulture (the base for the division of horticulture and later, the federal-state inspection service) was formed at the time of statehood. The first legislative session in 1891 made it official 22 years before there was a department of agriculture. The first horticultural inspectors were assigned to orchard sanitation and cultural advice, rather than grades and standards. That came later.

The fruit industry here reached a high point in the 1920s of some 3,000 acres in the county. (Actual statistics were discarded when the district was legislated out of existence by Olympia after my retirement in 1973, and the "Hort" office here was closed). If my memory serves me right, shipments of fruit from the county in the 1920s reached some 1,500 carloads, mostly from and around Walla Walla. Acreage was about the same as reported in 1900, but production, at least twice as high.

Insects and other problems, however, were proliferating. Then came the Depression. Orchard costs, including nine sprays for apples alone, took their toll as prices fell. Apples were yanked out wholesale, and the "largest apple orchard in the world," Baker-Langdon, became eventually a huge asparagus field.

Prunes required less care and fared better. They held on, with their ups and downs, into 1955. Other fruit crops were minimal.

Friday, Nov. 11, 1955, there was a mid-afternoon snowfall while fruit trees, due to a mild fall, were yet in full green leaf. By Sunday, the 13th, the thermometer at my place had dipped to nine below zero. Apples, prunes, some cherries as old as 75 years — practically the whole valley's fruit trees — were wiped out. The Walla Walla side of the valley has never come back appreciably into the fruit picture. Today (some 20 years later, in 1977) there are less than 100 acres of fruit trees in the whole county, I would guess.

After resettlement of the Walla Walla country in 1859, vegetable growing got an early start at the local level. Supplies were needed for townsmen, fort personnel and livestock men. Grain was not yet a large item. Many people in town or on farms grew their own vegetable supply and sold the excess. Some Fort Walla Walla personnel engaged in growing vegetables, too.

Lyman, in his "History of Walla Walla County," says that Pasquale Saturno (who years later changed his name to Frank Breen) was the first "commercial gardener," in 1876. He was quickly followed by Frank Villa, fruits and vegetables, 1878; and Joe Tachi, gardener and later, substantial businessman, in 1880. Next to arrive amongst the Italians here was Tachi's 11-year-old nephew, Tony Locati (my father) in 1886. Shortly after, perhaps the same year, came Luigi Rizzuti; and then Carlo Bono.

From then until about 1895, we have Joe Columbo, John Arbin (an 11-year-old nephew of Tachi), Natalia Magnoni (Manuel), Frank Alessio the elder, Mike Curcio, Carlo Ponti and Pasquale (Charlie) Criscola, in that order. They formed the nucleus, as they sent for relatives and friends, of the Italian colony here who provided nearly all the gardening activity from 1910 on.

By 1900, there were some 20 Italian growers here. By 1911, when the Columbus statue on the courthouse lawn was dedicated, 98 Italians contributed (to its costs). By 1916, 109 gardeners, including four non-Italians, joined together to form the Walla Walla Gardener's Association as the result of abuses in the shipping trade. It remains today the oldest grower-shipper co-operative in the State of Washington, still operating under its original charter.

About half the Italian colony here came from one town — Lonate Pozzolo, a suburb of Milan today. And many of those were Locatis — five branches. They, in turn, were related to the Arbinis, Landonis and others. My mother was also a Locati. So, by the time my father, the Italian spokesman here, sent for all his relatives and friends, the Italian town was considerably



FIRST AND ALDER CIRCA 1910 . . . Viewer is looking west on Alder Street in this turn-of-the-century view of downtown Walla Walla area. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

thinned out. He made three trips back to Italy and sent for many at other times. Once installed here, the friends did likewise.

The other half of the Italian colony came from Naples to Calabria and Sicily. Cozensa, a southern town, furnished a good number of immigrants, as the older ones here sent for their own, just as did my folks. To name a few oldtimers: Maiuri, Venneri, DeCicco (Deccio), D'Elia (Della) and Gallo.

The 1920s saw accelerated action in the garden business. Some old firms were put out of business by The Association, but Walla Walla Produce survived by virtue mostly of some 20 Chinese garden-groups who were not in the Association. The Chinese had gardened here since early railroad days at about the same number of gardens. However, they were denied citizenship, could not own land, and many either died here or returned to China, so the Chinese gardens did not increase in numbers. Beginning in the mid-twenties, they steadily dwindled in numbers until in 1949, only three remained. Today, there is but one Chinese-American, Gene Tom, raising vegetables.

In the 1920s, vegetables for fresh market were literally grown from A to Z — asparagus to zucco, or Italian squash. This area would grow, given the market, practically any product growable in the north temperate zone. The "French" onion,

developed here over some 76 years into today's Walla Walla Sweet in three strains by the Italian gardeners, was the breadwinner. Onions remained fairly steady at about 500 acres for years. In the 1920s and 1930s up to 1,000 carloads of vegetables were shipped yearly from Walla Walla, and included an average 500-600 carloads of onions. Other major fresh-market crops have been rhubarb, spinach, lettuce, carrots, asparagus, cabbage and a good many others.

In 1932, came the first cannery of consequence, The Walla Walla Canning Company pilot plant. It canned, first of all, asparagus from the Walla Walla Gardener's Association, and green peas, prunes, tomatoes and spinach from various sources. This proved the feasibility of a processing plant and the movement was on. Other plants were attracted to the Blue Mountain area primarily by green peas — up to 28,400 acres in Walla Walla County alone in 1963. But many other vegetables, and some fruits, were also processed, so everybody benefited. There were at one time, 17 processing plants in the Blue Mountain area.

The truck gardener became more truly a vegetable farmer, and the general farmer became, in the case of peas, asparagus, sweet corn, carrots and the like, also a vegetable grower.

The fresh market aspects of gardening reached a high in the

1930s and early 1940s of nearly 200 Italian ethnic gardeners alone. Today, the list is some 60 traditional-type fresh market growers who also grow for processors. But they cultivate about as much land — some 1,000 acres. There are also some four or five Japanese-American gardeners.

Now, the “traditional” gardener grows onions, still at about 500-600 acres, but many are spring-seeded and include hybrid varieties that extend the shipping season into fall. Several hundred more acres are devoted to consumer-size carrots, fresh-market asparagus, bunched green onion and some radishes and loose-type lettuce in the main. Part of their difficulty now is securing a contract from a local processor for a diminishing demand, particularly of spinach.

All vegetable demand for processing is down. Peas have steadily dwindled from the 1963 high to 17,400 acres in 1974 and still receding, and prospects for the future right now are uncertain, as some processors are getting out or cutting down. Also, supplies of corn, carrots and a few other commodities are now being brought in from outside areas.

We have gained in the western end of the county since 1966. We now have some 40,000 acres newly under water since then. In 1976, this acreage included some 3,000 acres of grapes and 6,000 acres of potatoes.

What will happen to horticulture over the long pull around Walla Walla, nobody can say now. But one thing cannot be taken away: Walla Walla’s horticultural roots. The “Cradle of Northwest History” is also “The Cradle of Northwest Horticulture,” a claim which made Walla Walla known far as “The Garden City.”

HOW COME THE WALLA WALLA SWEETS?

Walla Walla has been synonymous with several things over the years . . . such as wheat, peas, its beautiful gardens and abundant trees, but none have garnered the attention of the world like that apple-sized and apple-sweet onion, the “Walla Walla Sweet.”

A host of roadside stands provide many sacks for the visitors who tote them home atop their car, loaded into the trunk or anywhere they can be tied down.

For, who can visit Walla Walla in the season of the “Sweets” and not take home a sack or two?

Not many . . . and who likewise goes visiting relatives on the coast without finding room for a sack or two . . . requested ahead of time usually.

It’s a seasonal mania . . . a normal abnormality . . . some will declare.

Whence came this delectable delicacy of the bountiful fields around Walla Walla? . . . one of the few areas of the world so endowed?

In the 1970s, when the “Sweet” was fast hitting highest peaks of popularity, numerous stories hit the popular press, not all of them accurate. It remained for Joe J. Locati, for many years the district supervising inspector for federal-state section, to provide the definition deluxe. This came in Locati’s book, “The Horticultural History of Walla Walla County: 1818-1977.”

It is from a chapter of this book that Locati penned the following “short version” in the same year, an article he titled, “Walla Walla’s Sweet Italian Onion with the French

Connection.” To keep the record straight, here is that article, courtesy of Locati.

By JOE J. LOCATI

I have researched (and lived) the history of the “French” onion, also called the “Walla Walla Sweet,” from a number of angles and sources, documented and oral, for a good many years.

The varietal was originally brought to Walla Walla as seed obtained by a French national stationed with the French army on the Island of Corsica . . . a French possession off the west coast of Italy, but with Italian roots. The Frenchman, Peter Pieri, upon discharge, secured seed of an Italian type prevalent on the island and brought it here around the turn of the 20th century. So, Pieri’s neighboring Italian gardeners referred to it as “la cipulla Franciasa,” literally, in Milanese Italian, “the onion, French.”

Pieri first planted his seed in July for an anticipated green-onion (bunching) market. Most of the crop went unsold and the finger-sized plants surprisingly survived the winter. But the plants bolted to seed early the following June and produced unmarketable bulbs with a center seed stalk, topped by a many-celled seed head, each filled with seeds.

At the time, some 15 Italian immigrant gardeners comprised the core of Walla Walla’s gardening industry and several were Pieri’s neighbors. Impressed by the new onion’s winter hardiness, which other varieties lacked, they and Pieri harvested the seed, which, coincidentally, had some pollination input from red, white or yellow varieties then in vogue, some of which had also bolted to seed, or were being grown from bulbs for seed.

This harvested “French” seed so became the prototype, but far from a “pure” line. Pieri also gave some of his seed to his Italian workman, who passed it along to his Italian friends.

Within several years (certainly by 1904, when my father was growing it) the Italians had found that, if seeded later . . . about Sept. 5-10 . . . the younger, four- to six-inch plants would not only “winter over,” but would go on to produce large, early, mature bulbs with an acceptable minimum of seed stalks — market culls. They were market-ready by mid-July, weeks ahead of any spring-seeded variety grown here for the summer trade. Sweetness and mildness were unexpected (and perhaps at that time, unimportant) bonuses.

Between the years 1900 and 1914 (start of World War I) the earlier Italian gardeners were joined by some 100 or more of their countrymen and practically all of them also were engaged in gardening. Careful hand selection (with a keen eye) of ideal bulbs for growing their own seed gradually reduced the off-color genes (a few reds or whites still show up to this day) and improved the “French” onion’s globular shape. In 1915, 500 carloads (300 100-pound sacks, or 15 tons each) were grown and shipped from the outskirts of Walla Walla. (Pieri’s land site is shown among the Italian gardener’s land sites in Ogle’s 1909 “Atlas of the County”. But, his name is not on the list of original (1916) Walla Walla Gardener’s Association members . . . 108 of them, all but four, Italians.

By 1925, John Arbini, one of the pioneering old-timers, had developed an acceptable strain of the “French” which matured in late June. Other growers “appropriated” some of John’s bulbs and grew their own pet selection . . . even improving what was called “Early Arbini.” By about 1940, came intermediate strains, lumped as “Early French.” Growers exchanged onion seed or borrowed when short, so there were no longer clear lines of strains.

Today, there are the three generalized lines, extending the shipping season for Walla Walla “Sweets” from about June

25 to about August 15, depending upon when they were seeded . . . September or March . . . and depending on whether they are the Arbini type, early French, or late (standard) French. The latter is hardly grown anymore, because it comes on late enough to overlap the mid-August types of recently developed (elsewhere) hybrids . . . when the market is falling sharply. So, any Walla Walla Valley onions harvested after Aug. 15 are not likely to be "Genuine Walla Walla Sweets."

There is much, much more to say about Walla Walla's "Sweets" and changes in cultural techniques, fertilization, diseases and their controls, harvesting changes to bins, central grading and packing, number of growers now involved, much, much larger individual plantings, costs, modern equipment, etc.

But I must say that the famed sweetness and mildness of Walla Walla's "Sweets" comes from an inherent, low volatile, sulfurous compound content. And, its succulence comes from rich soil, climate and know-how.

There is no "northern grown" onion quite like it that I know of.

(In 1985, Locati wrote the following updating for the above material).

Growers are much fewer now, about 50. And, individual plantings of "Sweets," September and/or March seedlings, range up to 60 acres. Most onion growers are second or third generation Italian-Americans.

There has been an accelerated movement away from the original growing land on the outskirts of Walla Walla to fresher, uncontaminated, soils throughout the Walla Walla River Valley, which extends some 35 miles from the foot of the Blue Mountains to the Columbia River. This area includes some fields in the

Umatilla County (Oregon) portion of the valley.

And, there is now a Walla Walla Onion Commission (with no federal marketing order) and a registered logo, "Genuine Walla Walla Sweet Onions." A self-imposed, specific geographic boundary has been set, within which the "Sweets" must be grown in order to merit this logo.

Six major and individual shippers market under various brands, mostly in or near Walla Walla. The June 22, 1985, advertising supplement to "The Packer," lists: Fresh Pak, Inc.; Mojonner's, Inc.; Taruscio Farms; Pacific Fruit and Produce Co.; Walla Walla Gardener's Association and Bossini Packing Co. Fresh Pak, which is in Pasco, ships "Sweets" grown in the set boundary. All are central-packed.

Established in 1916, the Walla Walla Gardener's Association is not only the "grand daddy," but also handles the biggest share of Walla Walla "Sweets."

Official Washington State Department of Agriculture figures for the more intensive labor period of 1958 to 1974 showed an average of 544 acres, all in Walla Walla County, producing from 10,500 tons to 13,500 tons annually, averaging 11,313 tons or 835 marketed 50-pound sacks, per acre.

No official figures have been available for some years. But, a shipper consensus for 1984 is that 1,200 acres in Walla Walla and Umatilla counties produced 800,000 of the 50-pound sack equivalents . . . 20,000 tons. If my figuring is correct, that is 16.66 tons per acre average, or 666.66 50-pound bag equivalents per acre marketed.

Today's more sophisticated techniques, equipment and chemicals call for only key personnel for growing the crop. But, onion stands have not been as consistent and there are often gaps in the rows. However, on average, the "Sweets" are larger.

WATER SUPPLY A MAJOR COMMUNITY ASSET

(The following material provided courtesy of Duane Scroggins, Public Works Director, City of Walla Walla.)

Mill Creek has been the source of the city's water supply since incorporation. That source is supplemented in times of heavy consumption by seven city wells from deep basalt aquifers.

Peak maximum consumption is as much as 30 million gallons per day, of which 18 million gallons is secured from the city water utility intake 18 miles east of Walla Walla up Mill Creek at the downstream edge of a 22,000-acre protected watershed.

In fall, winter and spring city customers consume up to 15 million gallons per day, with a surplus of three million gallons per day wholesaled to other water users, like College Place, in a cooperative effort to conserve deep basalt aquifer supplies.

The very first water system took some of the flow at First and Main streets. In 1877, reservoirs were constructed at the present site of the Odd Fellows Home and at Pioneer Park. In 1899, the city purchased the Walla Walla Water Co. for \$250,000.

In 1907, an intake dam was constructed at Kooskooskie along Mill Creek and a wooden stave and/or steel pipeline constructed into the city reservoir. In 1923, the present intake (a 12-foot high dam) was constructed about 4 1/2 miles above Kooskooskie. With it were built two 7.5-million gallon, open storage reservoirs about two miles east of Walla Walla near the junction of Mill Creek Road and Isaacs Avenue.

The city's water right to the flow of Mill Creek at the present

intake is 28 cubic feet per second or 18 million gallons per day. The city also has a permit to capture and store 20 cubic feet per second of winter flood water to assure future water supplies by constructing a storage reservoir. The city's seven wells have sufficient volume to supply peak needs or supplant Mill Creek supply for brief periods.

The age and condition of the pipeline (described as the "aorta" of the city by some) became a concern in the 1960s when a large section of the old pipeline ruptured. Subsequent examination disclosed serious corrosion and problems. In 1983, the city set forth on the largest single public water project in its history . . . replacing the pipeline.

A Citizen Advisory Committee was formed, examined the facts and studies by consulting engineers and recommended that the city embark on a replacement project to assure the opportunity of a continued supply of water through the year 2050 by constructing a 30-inch pipeline.

By fortuitous coincidence, 1978 federal laws mandated that Pacific Power and Light Co. purchase the electrical energy naturally available by the 1,260-foot fall of water from the city's intake to the twin reservoirs. All that was required would be a Pelton Wheel (aptly described as a small four-foot diameter "water wheel") and generator with connection to Pacific Power system already in place at the twin reservoir site.

The power sale contract as mandated by federal law is guaranteed through the year 2012 and will produce \$34 million

revenue which will largely repay the principal and interest on the bonds sold by the city.

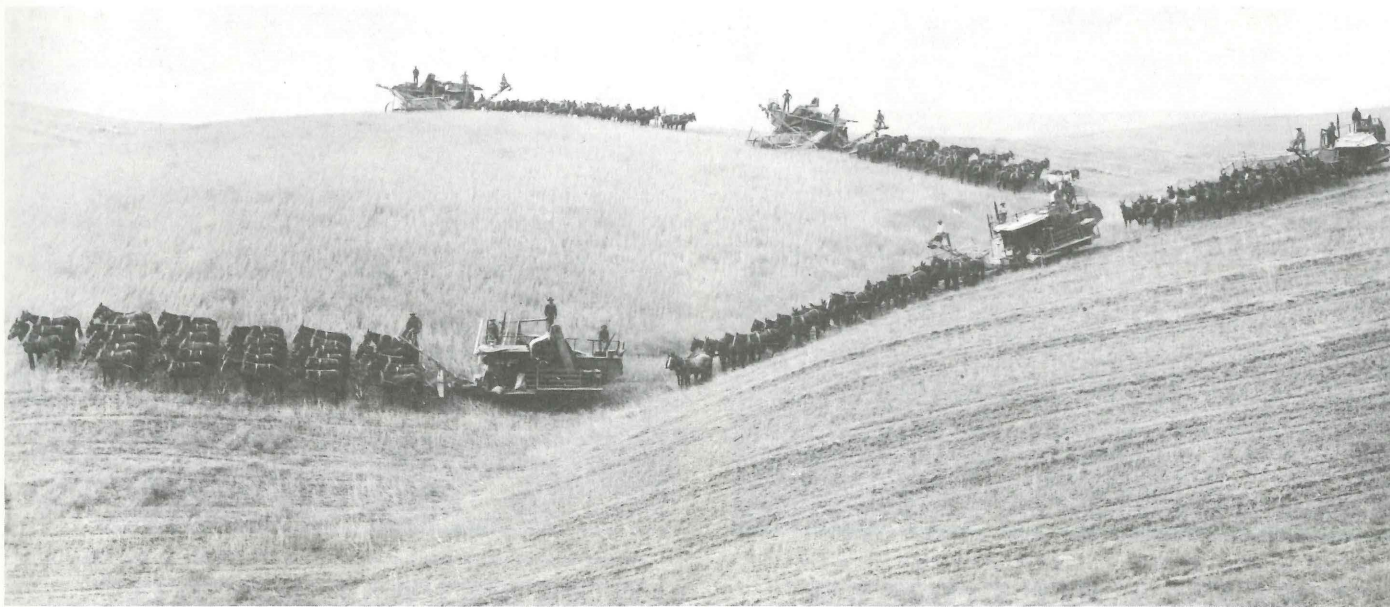
The total project cost was about \$20 million, with \$15 million water utility bonds and \$5 million state grant providing the funds. Thus, for an added cost of \$2.5 million for the electrical power system, the city constructed a water supply lifeline assuring water to the city for years into the future at a reduction in cost to water utility rate payers. The system is to be operational in 1988.

The water from Mill Creek needs no treatment other than

routine disinfection to far exceed minimum requirements of federal and state health agencies. City and county laboratories constantly monitor the distribution system to assure compliance with health standards.

Even in recent drought periods, the city has not experienced any water shortages since the city was incorporated. Under foreseeable circumstances the main source of supply, Mill Creek, is endless. Progressive and far-thinking leaders have planned and provided for opportunity to meet all the city's water needs for the 21st century.

WHEAT RATES AS BACKBONE OF FARM ECONOMY



GEORGE DRUMHELLER RANCH HARVESTED IN A BIG WAY! . . . Five teams of 33 mules/horses each ganged up for this massive movement of grain in 1910 on rolling hills of Walla Walla County in the "Horse Era" days of farming before advent of tractors. (Courtesy Archives, Library, Whitman College)

(Material for this article has come from the 1953 edition, along with latter day commentary provided through the courtesy of Don Schmidt, manager, Walla Walla Grain Growers.)

"Wheat, king of the Blue Mountain area's crops, has been the backbone of the region's agricultural economy for decades."

This statement, true for the 1953 edition is just as apt today. Some major changes have come, however, in the intervening 35 years, only one of which is the transporting of the harvested grain to the markets of the world.

Cultivation of wheat in this area dates from the time of Marcus Whitman when the settlers tilled a few acres of wheat on the meadows of Waiilatpu west of town. Efforts of those early farmers would be lost in a fence corner of one of the typical wheat fields of today which sprawl over thousands of acres.

Importance of the role of grain, even in Whitman's day was evidenced by the grist mill which was operated on his mission. From that humble beginning the reign of wheat as the number one crop here passed into the so-called "horse era." During that period the horse (and mule, too) played a vital role in wheat cultivation. That role has been perpetuated in the "Horse Era" displays found at Fort Walla Walla Museum.

Then, lumbering combines, pulled by as many as 33 horses and mules, labored over the rolling hills, pouring their golden harvest into sacks which were transported to "sack house" buildings for storage and shipment.

Then, fertilizers were undreamed of (or just barely!) and conservation farming was also in its infancy.

Wheat farming today is vastly different . . . self-propelled, air-conditioned combines bustle through the fields, often in tandem with several others, dumping their harvest directly into bulk trucks moving alongside. In the same vehicles, the grain is quickly moved to on-farm storage sites or immediately to huge storage-shipping facilities located on dam-caused, slackwater pools of the Snake and Columbia rivers.

In the 35 years since the first edition railroads have dwindled to nearly nothing in the areas away from the railroads' mainline trackage and wheat largely goes by barge from the main terminals on the Snake and Columbia.

Development of farm chemicals to stimulate wheat growth has been a major factor in the past three decades. Right with that facet is the development of improved grain species coupled with superior methods of farming the several types of soil found within this region.

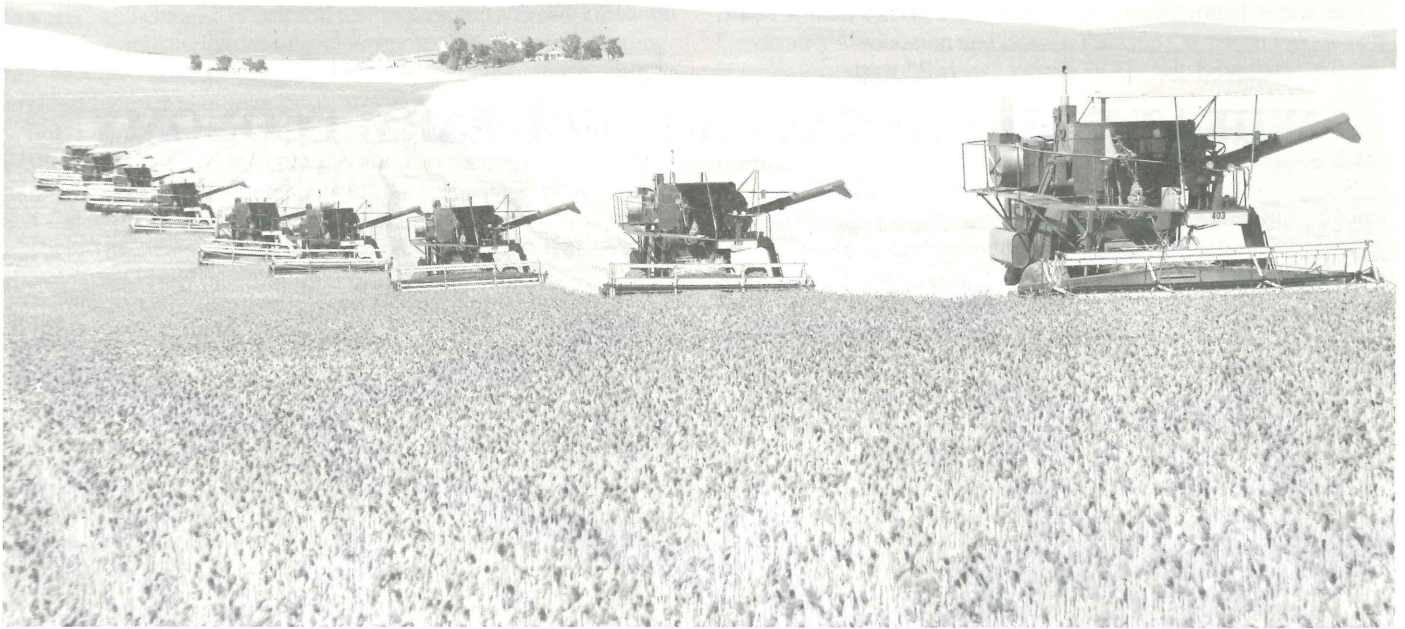
And, with changing federal farm programs, this also has been a determining factor on the behavior of Walla Walla County farmers. Subsidy payments or guarantees have been pegged to productivity of the land so that the farmer not only needs to measure the gain of spending more to produce a bigger crop simply in the proceeds of his crop sale but also in the increase in subsidies or guarantees this makes available to him in federal

farm programs over the years.

Significant change in figures of production over the years is the one for wheat yields in the county. Thirty-five years ago the county average was in the range of 30-plus bushels per acre. Today, with all the factors listed above plugged in, the yields

average some 60 bushels to the acre, coming off a tillable wheat acreage of some 186,000 acres.

This compares with an average yield of 55.2 bushels per acre off 251,000 acres in 1978.



THE MODERN METHOD OF HARVESTING WALLA WALLA COUNTY GRAIN . . . (Courtesy Jim Hanson, custom harvester. Photo by Bill Lilly).

STAY A BIT LONGER . . . TOURS REVEAL REGION AROUND WALLA WALLA

(Want to learn a bit more about the "Walla Walla Country?"

Try one or more of the tours suggested here, trips which are designed as single-day jaunts or to be stretched out as the traveler sees fit.

The 1953 edition of "The Walla Walla Story" reprinted a series of such detailed trips which had run in the Union- Bulletin. For the 1988 edition, we are presenting a capsulized version, which hopefully will whet the traveling appetite of the visitor or resident enough to try one or more for the pleasure of it all.)

TRIP NUMBER ONE — Plan an afternoon drive around this one. Palouse Falls State Park with the 200-foot high falls and the adjoining Lyons Ferry State Park are magnets. Head north past the Washington State Penitentiary, taking a left turn just past it to the Touchet river crossing and thence on north to the former site of Lyons Ferry. The old ferry is tied up at the park now, as one crosses the Snake River on a bridge which was moved here from Vantage, Wash. Go over the Snake to the parks and return home via Starbuck and Prescott, a trip of less than 140 miles.

TRIP NUMBER TWO — Want to visit the Tri-Cities while you're here? Then this one's for you. Take U.S. Highway 12 west from Walla Walla, remaining on it through Pasco to

Richland. See the Atomic City and return by way of Columbia Center, thence east on Clearwater Avenue to Kennewick and a turn south on Highway 14 to the Columbia River. Cross the Columbia at Umatilla and visit McNary Dam, hopefully as salmon runs are climbing the fish ladders. Come on back to Walla Walla by way of Oregon Highway 730 and back to U.S. 12 at Wallula Y.

TRIP NUMBER THREE — Visit Oregon and beat the heat on a summer day's visit to Walla Walla by sampling the high mountain country of this tour. Head south through Milton-Freewater and turn to the Blue Mountains at Weston, thence 20 miles to a rest stop at the U. S. Forest Service campgrounds at Tollgate. Continue easterly on Oregon 204 to Elgin, then turn south to La Grande, via Imbler (and Summerville for interesting side trip). At La Grande, pick up the freeway for the run back through the Blues to Pendleton and return to Walla Walla on Oregon Highway 11.

TRIP NUMBER FOUR — This one's a real shorty, abbreviated considerably from the 1953 jaunt, but one which should prove highly interesting. The route is over the old Nez Perce Indian trail, the Mullan Road and sections of the paths followed by the 1804-06 Lewis-Clark Expedition. Start by heading north past the penitentiary to Prescott, then turn east to Waitsburg. Stop there to see the 1880s Bruce Mansion, then

go on (U.S. 12) to Dayton and stop at the old Dayton Depot. Return at your leisure on U.S. 12, with possibly a stop at the Lewis-Clark Trail State Park between Dayton and Waitsburg.

TRIP NUMBER FIVE — How about a weekend tour? That could easily be the case for this one, the longest in the series, a loop over the mountains to Wallowa Lake and return by way of Clarkston-Lewiston. The journey is some 320 miles or more, depending on the side trips you take . . . and several will beckon. Again, we take the road to Milton-Freewater (out South Ninth from Walla Walla) thence over the Blues from Weston, turning at Elgin to Wallowa Lake, a great place to spend the night or a few days for that matter. From the lake head back to Enterprise to pick up the highway to Clarkston,

then the return to Walla Walla over U.S. 12.

TRIP NUMBER SIX — Catch a glimpse of the nearby Milton- Freewater/Umapine country while visiting some prime historical resource presentations of this region. Take the road south to Milton-Freewater, go through town to 1403 Chestnut St. and visit the old Frazier Farmstead, a restored pioneer farm home. Head back north and take the left turn at the north end of Main Street to Umapine and thence north over the hills to Whitman Mission National Historic Site. After a visit there, come home to stop at Fort Walla Walla Museum in the park of the same name, on Myra Road just off The Dalles Military Road. Want more history? Visit the restored 1880 Kirkman House on North Colville Street in Walla Walla.



HEART OF DOWNTOWN . . . Second and Main is in center of this 1988 photo from the Marcus Whitman Towers, looking to the south and foothills.



NORTH TO THE FREEWAY . . . Looking north on Second Avenue, one gains a good view from Marcus Whitman rooftop of changes on this side of downtown Walla Walla since 1953.



PORTION OF EASTGATE DISTRICT . . . part of the tremendous growth of Walla Walla since 1953.



DOWNTOWN WALLA WALLA . . . from 2nd and Poplar looking north

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE . . . AS THE 21ST CENTURY LOOMS

(This article was prepared by Harry Drake, who retired as Chief Engineer of the Walla Walla Corps of Engineers after 40 years of designing and building large dams. Since retirement, he has served as Mayor of Walla Walla, organizing chairman of Valley Transit and as a member of the Parks Board, Planning Commission and Senior Citizens Board. Presently, he is chairman of the Walla Walla County Centennial Committee.)

Walla Walla got its start as an Army post in the 1850s and as a transfer center for supplies brought up the Columbia River and destined for mining and settlements extending more than 100 miles to the north, east and south. Fort Walla Walla was established to protect those supply lines.

It was soon discovered that many of the products, such as wheat, hay, vegetables, beef and wool, could be produced in the fertile lands adjacent to the town. This made it a point of origin as well as a point of transfer.

The transcontinental railroads changed the economy, bypassing Walla Walla, although the city continued to be served by several branch lines. In later years, the highway system connecting major cities also took routes missing the city.

Still more recently, the Columbia and Snake river projects have affected the whole county by ensuring relatively inexpensive power and incidental recreation sites and, in the western part of the county, navigation facilities and an easily available low head, pumped water supply.

The growth of Walla Walla and College Place has been enhanced by Whitman College, Walla Walla College and Walla Walla Community College. Employment at the Washington State Penitentiary, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and U. S. Veterans Administration Medical Center has also added to the local economy, offsetting job losses caused by more mechanized farming.

The dry western Walla Walla County has a different past and future. The large, sparsely developed west provides extensive space, power, pumped water and adequate adjacent transportation facilities to encourage heavy industry and increased irrigated crop production, such as grapes. As California and the Midwest deplete their water supplies, the western part of our county will be ready to fill the breach. The Burbank area will

probably continue its fast growth as a residential area for the Tri-Cities employees, despite the ups and downs of the nuclear industry. More heavy industry such as Boise Cascade and Iowa Beef Packers are expected to add to the economy.

The Walla Walla-College Place community, as well as Waitsburg and Prescott in the eastern part of the county, will probably remain stable as they have in the past half century. Such stability is usually considered good by everybody but developers. Stability means suitable maintenance of service facilities and adaptability to changing conditions.

Walla Walla, including College Place, will continue to offer quality of living including stable jobs, resulting from small industries such as special farm and food processing equipment, canning, archery, stoves and toys. Banking and shopping facilities for a wide area of Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon will continue indefinitely. Large scale farming and truck gardening for export will maintain their no-failure records despite the responses to the weather and price variations. The three colleges, Corps of Engineers, the VA hospital and the penitentiary are here to stay.

Other quality items are an excellent parks system, a well developed, dependable, clean water supply, good schools, programs available from the three colleges, three hospitals, excellent ambulance services, few traffic and parking problems and a complete public transportation system.

All of the above features are already attracting retirees who may well be the largest source of growth in the nation during the next few decades. This will affect Walla Walla because of the availability of everything described above, as well as a moderate climate, home sites of all kinds and excellent full and partial care facilities. Recreation of all types is available within minutes.

Walla Walla has become my adopted home for the last forty years after living in many other parts of our nation and in many cities large and small.

Walla Walla seems to have the best of all things from raising a family to spending retirement years.

Everything indicates that the city will keep those qualities indefinitely.

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1869

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1890



1910

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